

Hafa Adai!

Ex-CBP officer Yamagishi pleads guilty.

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Tourist, 60, drowns while snorkeling in Managaha.

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75¢

DOD insists talks on live-fire, land acquisition still at an 'early stage'

By JOEL PINAROC
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REPORTER

A high-ranking official of the U.S Department of Defense met with lawmakers on Capital Hill yesterday to discuss proposed military activities on the CNMI particularly on Tinian and Pagan.



Scher

Robert M. Scher, DoD assistant secretary for strategy, plans, and capabilities, said his primary purpose is to hold dialogues with the lawmakers.

The official also said the talks on proposed military activities and land leases on Tinian and Pagan remain at an "early stage."

"We need these kinds of engagements. We are still at an early stage in the talks and we have to get down to the details," Scher said, while address-

ing questions from lawmakers.

He assured lawmakers that he agreed to meet to further "listen."

One of the questions thrown at Scher was the actual impact of live-fire exercises on Tinian, considering its close proximity to Saipan.

House Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) said Saipan has been relying on tourism for many years

See DOD on Page 4

Hank Taitano found guilty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Superior Court jury reached a unanimous verdict that finds Hank Kenney Peredo Taitano, a 36-year-old tour bus driver guilty of raping a 13-year-old girl, who became pregnant and delivered a baby last March.

After deliberating for about five hours, the six jurors came out with a guilty verdict as to the charge of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree.

The victim and her mother burst

See HANK on Page 4



COMMEMORATIVE SIGN UNVEILING

Local residents join with relatives of the late Samoan chief liga Pisa, headed by Pisa's granddaughter liga Olivia (center with red flower), pose for a group shot after the dedication of a commemorative sign at the site of the former Samoan Village in Lower Base.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HUMANITIES COUNCIL

Bridge Capital's Baldwin under criminal, tax probe in Laos for bribery

» Lao People's Democratic Republic seeks federal court's help for issuance of subpoena
» Bribe allegedly cost Lao govt \$70M in lost tax revenue in casino investment

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Bridge Capital LLC co-owner John K. Baldwin is under criminal and tax investigations in Lao People's Democratic Republic (Formerly Laos) for allegedly bribing Lao PDR officials

over \$300,000 that caused termination of an audit and also cost the Lao government \$70 million in lost tax revenue over a five-year period from the operations of Baldwin group's casino, according to court documents.

In addition, the Lao PDR also produced an email from Baldwin, allegedly instruct-

ing his staff to pay a \$120,000 bribe to a Cambodian official to obtain a Cambodian lottery license.

Saipan Tribune contacted the Bridge Capital LLC for

See BRIDGE on Page 4



Baldwin

INSIDE



LOCAL

Tan Holdings donated over \$2,000 dollars yesterday to Karidat for aid in typhoon relief for the island of Rota.

» PAGE 6



NATION

A white man opened fire during a prayer meeting inside a historic black church in downtown Charleston on Wednesday night, killing nine people.

» PAGE 22



LIFE & STYLE

He doesn't need the money, but if Donald Trump's presidential campaign falters, late-night comics would surely pass the hat to keep it going.

» PAGE 29



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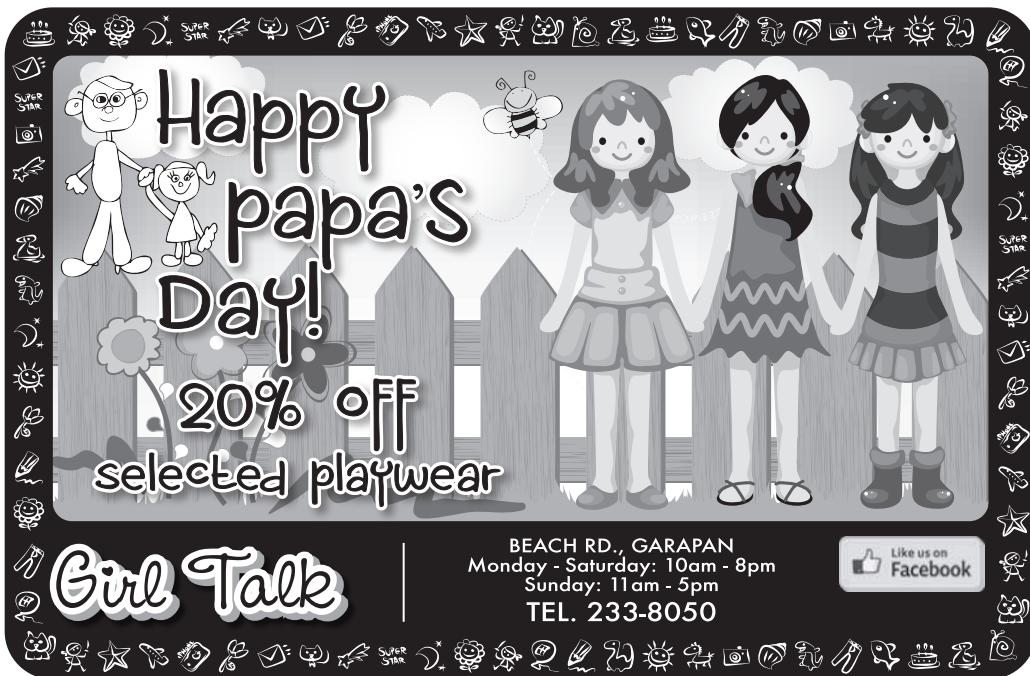


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Local

Ex-CBP officer Yamagishi pleads guilty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Former U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer Bob Hajime Deleon Guerrero Yamagishi on Wednesday pleaded guilty in federal court to two counts of fraud by wire.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona accepted Yamagishi's guilty plea and the plea agreement.

Manglona set the sentencing for Sept. 25, 2015 at 9am. She ordered the U.S. Probation Office to submit a pre-sentence investigation report by Aug. 20, 2015.

Attorney Janet H. King appeared as court-appointed counsel for Yamagishi. Assistant U.S. attorney Russell Lorffing appeared for the U.S. government.

In exchange for pleading guilty to counts 23 and 24 fraud by wire, the prosecution agreed to move to dismiss the remaining 35 counts of fraud by wire of the indictment upon sentencing.

The offense carries a maximum penalty of a 30-year prison term, a \$1-million fine, a five-year supervised release, and a \$100 special assessment.

According to the factual basis of the plea agreement, between July 5 and Aug. 7, 2014, Yamagishi knowingly devised

a scheme or plan for obtaining money by means of false or fraudulent representations.

Yamagishi used a wire communications to carry out or attempt to carry out an essential part of the scheme.

As then-CBP officer, Yamagishi applied for and received a travel charge card from J.P. Morgan Chase.

J.P. Morgan Chase prohibits the use of the travel charge card for non-travel related purposes.

On July 5, 2014 to Aug. 7, 2014, Yamagishi devised a scheme to defraud J.P. Morgan Chase and to obtain money and property by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations and promises.

Yamagishi would present the travel charge card to an employee of CYC Kagman Market and Yong Hui Market for the purposes of obtaining cash or other property for personal use.

Yamagishi would represent that he had authority to use the card, even though he knew he had no such authority. He would then use the cash to gamble or purchase methamphetamine or "ice."

On July 20, 2014, Yamagishi presented his travel charge card to an employee of Yong Hui Market and asked for cash back. Upon representing that he had

authority to use the card, the employee of the store then charged \$165 to Yamagishi's travel card as if he had purchased \$165 worth of merchandise.

In reality, the store's employee would keep approximately 15 percent and give the remaining amount to Yamagishi in cash.

On Aug. 5, 2014, Yamagishi presented his travel charge card to an employee of CYC Kagman Market and asked for cash back.

Upon representing that he had authority to use the card, the store's employee then charged \$200 to Yamagishi's travel card as if defendant had purchased \$200 worth of merchandise. In reality, the store's employee would keep approximately 15 percent and give the remaining amount to Yamagishi in cash.

CBP Internal Affairs special agent Brian Kawabata stated at a detention hearing early this month that Yamagishi is suicidal, hooked on gambling, can't control his addiction to "ice," and even attempted to become a drug supplier.

According to the indictment, Yamagishi allegedly made the illegal cash advance transactions 28 times in July 2014 and nine times in August 2014, for a total amount of \$6,227.53.

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JULY 16 Rota at Sinapale Elementary School 9AM-2PM	AUGUST 10 Saipan at Oleai Elementary School Cafeteria & on Tinian at the Tinian Jr. Sr. High School Library 8AM-3PM	AUGUST 11 Rota at Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr. Sr. High School 9AM-2PM

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BSI details employment effects, labor demands in project file

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Best Sunshine International, Ltd has forecasted construction, labor, and guest numbers in the major siting permit application for their "Grand Mariana Casino Resort" in Garapan, for which a public hearing is set near the end of the month.

BSI, as the exclusive casino

licensee, will build 2,000 new rooms over three locations on island with certain requirements, among others, for local labor and public contributions.

In 2014, Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas Islands contributed \$13.2 million in hotel occupancy taxes and \$4.4 million in gross revenue receipts to the CNMI government, BSI's overall project is

expected to significantly add to this if realized.

In year one, BSI's casino resort destination is forecasted to represent a visitor arrival increase of approximately 15 percent over 2013 arrivals.

"Assuming tourism arrivals remain constant, the BSI development is projected to increase arrivals by approximately 60 percent," BSI writes in their major

siting application project file.

BSI also notes a strong possibility that arrivals will increase in general as the overall tourism industry grows as a result of their proposed development.

In year one and two of their "business plan," BSI projects 65,700 guests. In year three, they project 197,100 guests. In year four, this is projected to grow to 229,000 guests.

In year five, BSI projects 246,375 guests. And from year six to 10, they project 262,800 guests.

Labor requirements

BSI, as exclusive casino licensee, is also required to meet a 65 percent-to-35 percent ratio of local and foreign labor when staffing their casino resort.

This force mixture will

spread across their planned hotel, casino, wellness facility, retail, restaurant, and other resort operations.

In years one and two, BSI projects that out of a total 650 staff, there will be a required 423 local workers.

In year three, out of a projected total of 1,500 workers, BSI will be required to have 975 local

See BSI on Page 4



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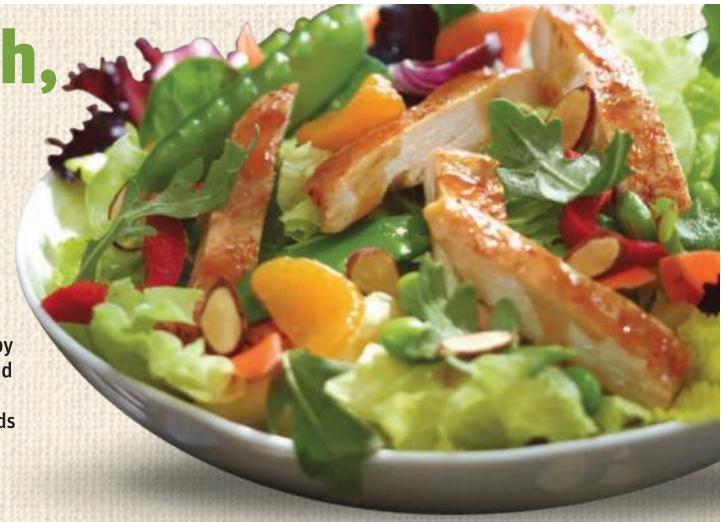
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Public, private sector come together in 'One Community CNMI'

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

More than 200 members of the community, from public and private sectors alike, attended the first day of an all-inclusive event entitled "Workforce Development Training: One Community CNMI" held at Kanoa Resort yesterday.

It is organized by the United States Attorney's Office for the Districts of Guam and Northern Mariana Islands and the Diverse Community Outreach Coalition and will continue the whole day of today at the same venue.

As a response with the U.S. Department of Justice's Smart on Crime Initiative, the program aims to engage the community in crime prevention, strengthen protections for vulnerable populations, and make known reentry efforts through workforce development strategies.

"This whole training is to

bring the community together to talk about these issues, to identify resources on the ground as well as resources that exist in other places, in the mainland, and to look at both traditional and creative ways to provide those services and programs so that we can meet the Smart on Crime goals," U.S. Attorney for Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands districts Alicia A.G. Limtiaco said.

"Fundamentally, it is a public awareness training and it's a first step to what we hope will lead to the creation and establishment of other additional programs and services that will help the entire community," she added.

Various panels headed discussions on different topics such as the state of the CNMI's economy and labor force, employment and labor laws, and integrating effective job training and retention strategies for

the workforce and improving offender employment through employer focused programs were discussed.

Today, discussions will include grants and funding resources and opportunities, and issues and strategies for preparing and supporting offenders completing their terms of incarceration and youth in the juvenile justice system for their successful reentry into society and the workforce.

"The reason why those sessions are important is because there are grants for courts, for law enforcements, for correctional institutions, and programs and services that have already been established and vetted in other communities that we can use as a resource here in our islands," Limtiaco said.

"This is something that hopefully will bridge the gap in terms of the people that we are trying to serve and the programs that

we have," Commerce Secretary Mark Rabauliman said.

Starting early

While one the main focus of the training is reducing recidivism and guiding reentry into the society of those from prison, Labor Secretary Edith Deleon Guerrero said the CNMI doesn't need to wait for individuals to end up in prison and then wait for them to exit before help is provided them.

"We shouldn't be looking at designing a system that way. We should start early, at a very young age, so that we mold citizens, their character, their person, so that they won't walk down that path of destruction or criminal behavior," Deleon Guerrero said.

According to Limtiaco, that is why those from the education, civic, and community sectors are also included in the training.

"This training is also about

prevention," Limtiaco said.

'One community'

The U.S. DOJ is a big part of the training including its Office of Justice Programs, Federal Bureau of Prisons and the National Institute of Corrections-Community Services Division.

Also included in the list of off-island trainers who have provided and will provide information and training are Director Glory Gervacio Saure of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Honolulu Office, U.S. Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division assistant district director Patrick Candoleta, and Philip Marlowe of the U.S. DOL Federal Contractors Compliance Office.

Other federal agencies such as the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Small Business Administration and

the U.S. Department of Agriculture are also taking part in the two-day training.

From the CNMI, agencies like the Department of Labor, Department of Commerce, Commonwealth Development Authority, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and other stakeholders and organizations such as the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Northern Marianas Trades Institute, Karidat Social Services, Rotary Club of Saipan, and Society of Human Resource Management are part of the initiative.

"It's 'One Community CNMI' that is the message and the theme because not one sector of the community can do it by itself," Limtiaco said, "What the coalition has stated is that it takes all of us coming together as one community in order to push forward with these efforts and to achieve the goals of the initiative."

understand that what the community wants is better understanding of the noise, and visual impacts of the planned military activities.

"How do you address these concerns?" Demapan said.

Sen. Arnold Palacios (R-Saipan) urged Scher and other military officials to "sit down" with the community members particularly of the Northern Islands that Pagan is part of.

"The draft impact statement says 16 weeks of military activities. But will this be the same case 10 years from now?" Palacios said.

For Rep. Edwin P. Aldan (Ind-Tinian) the military should be very clear on what public benefits the militarization will bring to Tinian as well as the long-term impacts of bombing on Pagan.

"I hope you will consider what the impact will be for Pagan," Aldan said.

Scher stressed that talks are still on the early stages, but gave his commitment that regular consultations will continue to be held.

construction firms, and local and foreign suppliers of material and equipment, BSI writes.

Taxes

BSI projects tax revenues associated with the proposed casino facility to be \$55,940,522, \$79,141,780, and \$80,205,815, for years 2017, 2018, and 2019, respectively.

These revenues will come from business gross receipts tax, room tax, alcohol/cigarette taxes, payroll tax, CNMI annual taxes, and others.

For 2017, 2018, and 2019, for their 1,800 employees they project an annual average salary of \$27,040, \$28,122, and \$29,246.

Calculating CNMI and FICA taxes and employer payroll tax, BSI estimates \$10,367,136, \$10,781,821, and \$11,213,094 in total taxes to federal and the local government from 2017 to 2019, respectively.

BRIDGE

From Page 1

comment yesterday, but no one answered the phone.

Attorney William M. Fitzgerald disclosed the pending criminal investigation against Baldwin as counsel for the government of the Lao PDR filed on Friday in the U.S. District Court for the NMI an application for issuance of subpoena.

Fitzgerald asked the federal court to allow Lao PDR to serve a subpoena pursuant to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption and U.S. statute on Bridge Capital located in Saipan, and on Bridge Capital chief financial officer David Jensen, in connection with the criminal and tax investigations in Laos and in connection with two international arbitration proceedings pending in Singapore.

The lawyer disclosed that both the Lao proceedings and the arbitration proceedings directly involve entities owned and/or controlled by Baldwin and Shawn Scott, who own Bridge Capital LLC.

Fitzgerald said in order to locate the evidence needed to establish criminal activity in the Lao PDR and to support its claims and defenses before the international arbitral tribunal,

and to facilitate the Lao proceedings against Sanum Investments Limited and Savan Vegas and Casino Co. Ltd., Lao PDR requests the federal court issue the subpoenas.

Fitzgerald said the subpoenas will permit Lao PDR to obtain copies of the documents being sought from Bridge Capital LLC.

Bridge Capital LLC is the parent company of Sanum Investments Limited and Lao Holdings N.V.

Sanum is a company organized in Macau. Lao Holdings was incorporated in Aruba in 2012 and inserted into the ownership chain to gain access to the Netherlands/Lao PDR Bi-lateral investment treaty, according to Fitzgerald.

The lawyer said Sanum and Lao Holdings are parties in the arbitrations and that Sanum is the target of the Lao proceedings.

Lao Holdings owns the Savan Vegas and Casino Co. Ltd. located in Savannakhet, Laos.

In 2007, the Lao PDR signed a concession agreement with Sanum, granting it a 50-year concession to build and operate the Savan Vegas casino.

The casino was opened in 2009. Savan Vegas is now owned 80 percent by the Baldwin group and 20 percent by the Lao PDR, according to Fitzgerald.

The lawyer said that, in Janu-

ary 2014, Lao PDR learned that Baldwin had caused an employee of Savan Vegas and Casino to deposit \$300,000 in cash into the bank account of a Ms. Sengkeo Phimmasone, a Lao citizen that Baldwin calls a "consultant" on July 12, 2012.

Fitzgerald said the timing is crucial because two days later a significant decision by a Lao PDR official that was favorable to Savan Vegas and unfavorable to the Lao PDR happened—the termination of an Ernst & Young audit.

The Lao PDR alleged that that the \$300,000 was deposited in cash into the "consultant's" account for her to pay bribes to Lao PDR officials.

The "consultant's" bank records allegedly show she withdrew \$300,000 in several cash withdrawals over the next month and at the same time, \$29,400 in cash was also deposited into her account and that sum was immediately wired to her bank account in the Bank of America in the U.S.

Fitzgerald said Baldwin submitted an affidavit in the arbitrations on May 9, 2014, in which he stated that he did direct his employee to carry \$300,000 cash in a suitcase from his bank in Cambodia, flying across an international border to Vientiane on July 11, 2012, so that the money could be deposited

into the "consultant's" account on the following day.

Baldwin stated that the cash was a loan to his friend, the consultant.

Fitzgerald said Baldwin's testimony was patently impossible to believe as he has no loan agreement, no repayment evidence, no paper of any kind to evidence that the cash deposit was a "loan."

The lawyer said just last month, the Lao government discovered that in 2009, a bribe of \$30,000 was paid to the director general of the Tax Department in exchange for a flat tax agreement that granted the Savan Vegas and Casino a flat tax of \$750,000 per year instead of tax at the rate code rate.

"This bribe has cost the government \$70 million in lost tax revenue over the five-year period of the flat tax agreement," he said.

Fitzgerald said that in May 2012, the Lao PDR had ordered an audit of the Savan Vegas and retained Ernst & Young to conduct the audit.

He said after Ernst & Young had spent over a month investigating the casino financial records, a Lao PDR official called the Ernst & Young on the phone and ordered the firm to cease gathering documents from the casino and to complete their report within the week.

"We could not have done it without her," Torres said.

Assistant public defender Meyer immediately left the courtroom after the hearing.

In December 2014, police arrested Taitano.

The girl's parents learned about the rape when they noticed that the girl's stomach was getting bigger.

During a checkup on Nov. 28, 2014, the doctor told the mother and her husband that the girl at that time was four months pregnant.

HANK

From Page 1

into tears as they hugged each other after hearing the verdict. The girl's family members and some relatives and staff of the Office of the Attorney General were also in tears.

Taitano bowed his head when the verdict was announced.

Sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree carries a 30-year maximum penalty and

eight years of mandatory prison term.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho set the sentencing for Oct. 28, 2015 at 9am.

The Office of the Adult Probation was ordered to submit a pre-sentence investigation report by Oct. 2, 2015.

Assistant attorneys general Shannon Foley and Barbara Cepeda, counsel for the government, called seven witnesses, including expert witness, during the trial.

Assistant public defender Matthew Meyer, counsel for Taitano, did not call any witness.

The trial began on Monday. The jurors started deliberating for an hour on Wednesday late afternoon. They resumed their deliberations yesterday morning.

Asked for comment about the verdict, Office of the Attorney General spokesperson Carla Torres said they would like to thank the victim for her strength and courage in standing up against her attacker.

BSI

From Page 3

cals working.

This number grows to 1,138 locals working in year four, out a total 1,750 workers.

In year five, this increases to 1,219 local workers out of 1,875 workers total.

From business year six to seven, BSI would be required to have 1,300 locals employed out of their total 2,000 projected employees.

Construction

BSI's proposed construction costs are estimated at \$165 million, as also disclosed in their earlier Zoning application.

However, they note, this estimate is still under review.

Construction expenses will be spread across local and foreign labor, local and foreign

Tourist, 60, drowns while snorkeling in Managaha

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A 60-year-old Korean female tourist drowned while snorkeling with some family members in Managaha Island on Tuesday morning, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

Family members and representatives of a tour company went to the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division yesterday afternoon. *Saipan Tribune* learned that the family wants to request from chief prosecutor Leonardo Ra-

padas not to arrange for an autopsy of the victim.

The Department of Public Safety has yet to release information to the media about the incident.

A source said the victim and her son and the son's wife and the couple's child went to Managaha on Tuesday. The victim and the couple were then snorkeling. Later, the couple noticed that the victim was already floating.

The victim was later pronounced dead.

Proposed legislation wants to extend grazing permits

A proposed legislation at the Senate wants to provide "continuity and security" for agricultural and grazing permit holders in the CNMI.

Sen. Steve Mesngon (R-Rota) introduced Senate Bill 19-17, which also seeks to extend the term of the agriculture and grazing permits so that farmers may have a "fair opportunity to earn a reasonable return on their investments."

The agricultural and grazing permit is good for one year.

Mesngon's bill was part of the agenda at a Senate session on Thursday.

According to Mesngon, the one-year permit is an "insufficient time span" for agricultural and grazing use of public lands.

The Department of Public Lands and Department of Lands and Natural Resources are the agencies issuing the permits.

CNMI farmers and ranchers have been "limited" by the said

Last October, an economist of an investment company who was snorkeling at Grotto in Marpi was found dead at the dive site. Autopsy revealed he died of drowning.

Last Oct. 10, a 67-year-old Korean male tourist on a snorkeling tour drowned near Managaha reef.

In May 2014, a Japanese snorkeling instructor drowned at the Pinatang Dive Site on Rota.

In February 2014, a 17-month old boy drowned in the swimming pool of a house in Papago.

agencies to just one year, Mesngon noted.

"If immediate attention is not paid to preserving fertile land, all such remaining land may be permanently lost to other forms of development," Mesngon's bill noted.

The bill further noted that the loss of the tillable land and grazable land would make the Commonwealth immensely dependent upon the foreign importation of agricultural products.

The bill also warned that, "such irreversible foreign dependence is undesirable."

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The bill recommends a longer permit period of five years. The DPL and DLNR can also charge a "reasonable" fee for such an extension. (Joel Pinaroc)

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Tan Holdings donates more to Karidat



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan, Tan Holdings corporate consultant David M. Sablan, Karidat executive director Lauri Ogunmoro, and Tan Siu Lin Foundation's Merlie Tolentino pose for a group after the TSL Foundation turned over a check worth \$4,200 to Karidat for Rota's typhoon relief.

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tan Holdings donated over \$2,000 dollars yesterday to Karidat for aid in typhoon relief for the island of Rota, bringing their total typhoon relief donations up to \$4,200.

Tan Siu Lin Foundation's Merlie Tolentino said yesterday that Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan matched dollar-for-dollar the \$1,100 in funds raised from a recent "fun run" on May 31.

This fun run, which occurred on Tan's birthday, was set to raise funds for Rota relief efforts.

That same month, Tan Holdings had donated \$2,000 to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) in his aid to Karidat.

With the yesterday's donation, this boosts total contributions up to \$4,200 for the shipment of rice, canned goods, butane, toilet paper, and other amenities to Rota.

Tolentino told *Saipan Tribune*

Senate to conduct further review of 'political union' legislation

A proposed legislation seeking to create a political status commission to reexamine the CNMI's political union with the United States is still under review at the Senate.

House Bill 19-2 was authored by Rep. Felicidad T. Ogunmoro (R-Saipan) and was already passed by the House of Representatives.

The bill proposes the creation of the Second Marianas Political Status Commission which will review if the CNMI people still desire to continuing the political union with the U.S. pursuant with Covenant and to determine if that continuation is the people's best interest.

The proposed commission, will also examine if "some other political status would better enable them to fulfill their aspirations of full and meaningful self-government."

Ogunmoro's bill is at the forefront again as discussions on proposed military activities and land leasing continue in the CNMI.

bune that Tan saw the fund-raising as an opportunity to help the people of Rota after the typhoon.

"The idea was we've been wanting to help the people of Rota but we just didn't know how," she said, also thanking Tan Holding employees for participating in the run and donating.

Karidat executive director Lauri Ogunmoro said this was "generous surprise" and right now they are trying to figure out what more they can bring to the people of Rota in terms of resources needed.

"The TSL has helped tremendously. They were very supportive in the first go around [of donated goods]," the executive director told *Saipan Tribune*.

"We still have opportunities to get our help down to Rota," she said.

"We are going to survey some of our contacts and see what are some of the best donations" to give to the people of Rota, she said.

Tolentino told *Saipan Tribune*

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Celebrate fatherhood this Sunday

Father's Day is on Sunday and it's time to give back to the "man of the house!"

And if you're still wondering how to here are some ideas to make sure he enjoys his special day.

Fiesta Resort

Families may enjoy a Father's Day brunch at World Café and since it's never too early to celebrate, it comes with free flowing domestic beer, wine, and champagne.

Aside from complimentary pool passes, a plus is that it also comes with a special gift for dad!

World Resort

You can also have brunch at The Buffet World of Saipan World Resort. Live entertainment is offered along with food and drinks and raffle prizes await families who will dine here.

Kanoa Resort

For a slightly lower price than the brunch choices above, you can have a lunch buffet at Kanoa Resort's Isla Café. Treat dad to servings of roast beef, glazed ham, assorted sushi rolls, tuna poke, and sashimi.

Laolao Bay Golf & Resort



If you want lunch with live entertainment, go to Laolao Bay Golf & Resort's The Grill Restaurant. It also comes with free pool pass for everyone to enjoy.

And if your pop is the golf kind of guy, you can also surprise him with a Father's Day gift certificate package at this resort which includes round of golf at CNMI's most prestigious golf course as a complimentary to their luxury room stay. For an even more complete package, you can also add in a quality dinner paired with a bottle of their legendary wine.

Club C at Kanoa

At Club C, just being dad al-

ready entitles you to one free drink from 11am to 1pm on Sunday. In the evening, enjoy world-class entertainment from Club C's very own Raynie and Ari.

Amigo's Pizza and BBQ

If daddy can't get enough of pizza, treat him at Amigo's where they will be serving their Father's Day Special. Two large pizzas or two medium ones can be enjoyed at \$32.99 and \$26.99, respectively.

McDonald's

As a gift to all dads, McDonald's is giving away a free \$10 Arch card with a minimum purchase of \$25.

T Galleria by DFS

If you plan to buy gifts for daddy, purchase them at T Galleria by DFS and get raffle entries for every \$40 you spend. Prizes include one-night hotel stay at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, dinner and breakfast for two, golf for two, and many more.

880 Duty Free

880 Duty Free store at Kanoa will be having a special father's day sale starting tomorrow until Sunday. Items including shoes and luxury bags are at discounts of up to 40 percent off.

ACE Hardware

A two-day sale is also happening at ACE Hardware today until tomorrow. Let dad purchase that home furniture, appliance, and other tools and supplies at a 25-percent discount. Garden power tools, air compressor,

generator, pressure washer, and bed sets and mattresses are at 15 percent off while chainsaws are at 10 percent off.

Carquest Autoparts

Make sure to also check out Carquest Autoparts' packages and discounts on brushcutters and other car needs specially offered on Father's day.

IT&E

At IT&E, with every prepaid and postpaid activation made until today, one lucky dad could get barbecue grill, Bud beach hair, Bud gears, and Bud drinks.

Triple J Wholesale store

Come buy early at Triple J Wholesale store for dad's needs and if he's one of the first 150 dads, he gets a pack of 12 socks.



SHIRLEY'S BEACH CLEANUP

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Shirley's Coffee Shop held its quarterly beach cleanup last June 8 at the beach behind the Aquarius Beach Tower Hotel in Chalan Kanoa. Staff and their family and friends were able to haul several trash bags full of garbage from the site.

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Joeten Shopping Center

Joeten will be having a sale on men's items such as clothes and accessories including watches and wallets until Sunday so you'll have time to buy dad a gift!

Design Florist

Father's may not be into flowers but a special basket, wine basket or gift basket arrangement from Design Florist may be the sweetest gift you can give him on Sunday.

Shell

But if you already know what dad wants, like maybe a beer or two, let him try a Belgian beer gift set on sale this weekend at Shell Susupe, Puerto Rico, and San Roque. (Frauleine S. Vilanueva)

FORENSIC DOCUMENT EXAMINER TESTIFIES:

Some of Ada's signatures appeared forged

Apatang recommends 'improvements' on bill amending Litter Control Act

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson.camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang said a bill seeking to amend the Commonwealth Litter Control Act is good but he recommended "improvements" before its passage.

House Bill 19-26, introduced by Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), wants to amend certain sections of Public Law 6-37 or the Commonwealth Litter Control Act of 1989.

Apatang said he supports the bill as it is the Saipan Mayor's Office's priority to beautify the islands.

However, he said that while his office doesn't object being made responsible for picking up, removing, and disposing of road kill that the Department of Public Safety has moved from traffic, the operation needs to be funded.

"The bill does not provide for funding this added responsibility that our office will be charged with should the Legislature pass the bill and the governor enacts it into law," he said.

"Despite the bill granting the administrator of the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality control over the funds to be deposited in a special account for the purpose of carrying out the intent of the bill, we believe the Legislature should define how the deposits should be allocated among the agencies listed in the that have similar responsibilities," he added.

Agencies included in H.B.

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By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

19-26 are the apprehending officers that include employees from BECQ, Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Department of Public Works, Division of Public Health, Office of the Mayor, DPS, and Department of Public Land.

In other words, Apatang means that funding should be provided to fund the operation of the mayor's office for pick up, removal, and disposal of carcasses.

Apatang also said that as

part of one section on amending the Litter Control Act, one could "competently perform" without the assistance of the other. As part of the H.B. 19-26 amendment, DPS should inform the Saipan Mayor's Office after removing the carcass of a dead animal in traffic.

"We believe the concern for the safety of the employees of the Office of the Mayor is not the real compelling reason for including it in the removal and disposal of carcasses, as the employees [mayor's office] still pullover alongside busy roadways, exit from their vehicles, and pick up carcasses," Apatang said.

"We recommend increasing the not-to-exceed eight hours penalty that a business and others, as described in the bill, must perform upon being found to have committed an infraction...setting a not-to-exceed ceiling might result in the government picking up the tab for cleaning up the remaining litter after a business or others have performed eight hours of clean up," he added.

Agencies included in H.B.

resumed her testimony yesterday morning.

Hanson, court-appointed counsel for Ada, started calling witnesses on Wednesday after the U.S. government rested its case.

Chrisman completed her testimony yesterday afternoon. The trial will resume on Monday at 10am. The defense is expected to call two more witnesses.

The parties' lawyers are going to hold a jury instructions conference today, Friday, at 11am.

The prosecution called to the witness stand Federal Bureau of Investigation special agent Edmund Ewing as its 31st and last

witness on Tuesday afternoon.

After the prosecution rested, outside the presence of the jury, Hanson moved for judgment of acquittal as to all charges—conspiracy to commit money laundering, money laundering, and perjury. Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe opposed the motion.

After hearing the arguments, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona denied the motion. She ruled that the prosecution had sufficiently presented evidence to establish the charges.

As Chrisman took the witness stand, Hanson presented the government's exhibits about several documents consisting of

bank records, business license records, airlines records, invoices, letters, and other documents.

Chrisman basically testified that in her opinion based on her review of some documents, she concluded that the signatures and handwriting were of Melvin's and nothing of Ada's. She also found that in some documents the couple's handwriting and signatures were there.

Chrisman also basically testified that in her opinion based on her review of certain documents that contained Ada's signatures, that Ada may not have signed them. She explained she reached such conclusion by comparing those with Ada's known signature sample.

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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Juneteenth of Lolo Jose

Juneteenth was "June Nineteenth" when Union Soldiers emancipated slaves in Texas. The slaves slurred their words and June 19 became "Juneteenth"! The reality it points to, however, is that of emancipating human beings from the legal clutches of being treated less than their nature.

It is in such mix of metaphors that we zero in on Lolo Jose, aka, Dr. Jose R. Rizal. Rizal, the exiled medical scholar, an effete intellectual in the pantheon of U.S.-sanctioned heroes, distinguished himself not only as a man of many talents but also demonstrated with his life that he and his race deserved membership in the Cortes of the human empire.

He volunteered to serve as a medic in Cuba, not wishing to be branded a rebel against the rule of Spain but he alienated many of the basilica's tonsures. In the Philippine uprising, the Katipunan, and Bonifacio dragged his reputation into the melee and his fate was doomed.

While the charges leveled against him were on rebellion, he was more a threat to King Philipp's wards in the archipelago as the short but exceptional Indio bested their fashionably groomed Filipinos-Spaniards born in the archipelago. Spanish rulers hated Rizal's guts.

In the ruling classes of the world, whether it be by kinship as a member of royal blood and elite social structures, or the new power class whose progeny keeps gracing generational advances (Jeb Bush of the George Sr. and Jr. presidential Bushes cannot easily be dismissed, no more than Hillary of the Clinton conjugal WH be denied her right; as the Aquino-Cojuangcos are really no different from the Romualdez-Marcos), they are entrenched powers. Juneteenth in the US of A dealt with a racial divide that erupted in a Civil War; Lolo Jose dealt with a Filipino/Indio divide that earned him a firing squad.

In the Pacific, we still have the Matua-Matao that claim rights over subjects in the isles of Micronesia and Polynesia, and Carolinian sailors and navigators privy to oral traditions are treated supreme and are prominent over ordinary subjects not advantaged enough to participate in sacred rites.

Juneteenth emancipation slaves from existing strictures, like those in Texas, and cultural strictures like Korean, Japanese, and Chinese arrogance that limits many Sinosphere's minds. The selfhood of that introspective guy from Calamba en Laguna de Bay, exiled to Talisay, in Dapitan, Zamboanga del Norte, now Mi Retiro Park, well-sailed-and-railed through Hong Kong, Japan, the United States, and Europe, demonstrated a capability unequalled in heroic myth making. Lolo Jose embodied a Pride of the Malay Race!

Juneteenth got Ambrose and Joe Hill mixed into the CNMI soil. Unified Pinoys is a political illusion but a nightmare, nonetheless! They can determine elections in Guam and Saipan if they unite.

Fortunately or sadly, take your pick, the political progeny of Lolo Jose, clannish and regionalistic, do not constitute a union of blends. In a country where "one person, one vote" counts, that is well and good.

We doff the salakot on Moy Mercado and the Pinoy this day!

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BACKGROUND NOISE:



Unraveling economic stagnancy

The economic stagnancy—where nothing has improved over the last 10 years—pits the elected elite fulfilling their promises for brighter days as hardship pummels households in the villages.

It's a tough economic condition that crashed in recent past when major investments took an exodus from the NMI. About \$5 billion-\$7 billion of money that was once recycled in the local economy was flushed out the floodgates. Dazed by its dire effects we walk around talking to ourselves why the grand dysfunction ignoring the self-inflicted apraxia.

Fiscal Sinkhole: Indeed, the huge gaping hole in what's known as budgetary shortfall (fiscal sinkhole) is difficult to fill and not when we simply don't have the political resolve to do the right things by doing them right. We sleepwalk them hoping for a miracle of sort.

Furthermore, the lack of a genuine plan is a serious indicator that we're still feeling our way around, heavily disoriented and apprehensive in adolescence. Or do we give it simple acknowledgment hoping to leave town before the deluge sets in?

Trashing Our People: Of course, we're wary of the previous Legislature's unilateral decision subverting the voice of the people on casino. Remember we said "no," twice? Has this morphed into fait accompli or would it return to haunt politicians in the near term?

With apprehensive smiles, outsized ego, and their integrity cultivated and neutralized by their new masters with deep pockets they simply trashed their relationship with "we the people." We would see how this pans out over the much-hyped answer to averting bankruptcy.

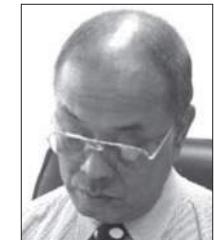
Policy Instability: But what other constructive policies have been undertaken to ensure that it survives? Didn't it include statutory exemptions and other decisions never granted other businesses here? Isn't this a negative in the keen eyes of others businesses who've struggled to make ends meet? Take a quick glimpse if you haven't already claimed lordship superficially for a favored investor. Like it or not, all roads lead back to policy instability, time and again, a ruination we are incapable of fixing. Isn't this an abdication of fiduciary duty?

New Concept: There's the concept of an "integrated resort" to bolster tourism beyond the traditional sightseeing that has been around for over four decades. Must we not be a part of the planning process to determine the size of the project and whether it is affordable and sustainable? For instance, who decides development issues? Have policymakers answered the immigration hurdle that ends CW workers here by 2019? It's all about the right hand knowing what the left is doing, right? Anybody home?

Homogeneity: We need to work up the resolve to determine the future and breadth of development here, including an ever-important

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



query: do we keep investments homogeneous or heterogeneous? In other words, how do we deal with key investments and should tourism be limited to only a single market source? It's a tough query its growth and wellbeing contingent upon thoughtful disposition. Hope it doesn't decompose in passivity land!

Investors are very keen to the setbacks they face here in terms of the obvious lack of basic infrastructure. Without their emplacement—water, power, sewer, and roads—nothing moves. The query points right back at the elected elite and whether it has the resolve to make the planned investments move forward in stride. If not, then it eventually drifts into the sunset. Get my point?

Caveat: The issues aren't difficult breaking down so we understand what they are and whether dispositions are warranted at this juncture or should we not adopt a "go slow" paradigm? It's all a matter of navigating against the head winds of bankruptcy versus opportunities. Deal with it!

The essence of time

I've run into several policymakers who seem contented, you know, the business as usual attitude in very unusual times. Disappointed, I'd quiz: And at their feet we've placed our livelihood?

I'm not sure what to make of the adolescent attitude and whether it's sheer arrogance or ignorance or both. For the former to prevail the elected elite would have to be doing the right things by doing it right. So it would have to be on the latter just dazed spouting unvarnished thoughts disoriented. Is confusion a form of wisdom? Is it the same as success attained because of failure?

Regardless, I'd say my piece on any issue of substance responsibly. To slide into realism could derail attention to what ought to be done over what is being done. We'd lose out to ruination rather than preservation of what we wish to see in our future using traditional values as our guide.

With fecklessness and indecisions, how do we jerk ourselves from economic stagnancy that has settled like silt at the bottom of Lake Bankruptcy?

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Bad player. Good lessons.

Chicago is a long way from Saipan, but we're going to take a news item from the Windy City this week. Chicago's hockey team, the Blackhawks, won the championship, known as the Stanley Cup, on Monday. This best-of-seven series was a real nail-biter.

I caught part of the series with some pals at a sports bar. I had almost forgotten how fast-paced and exciting hockey is. I can't forget entirely, though, since I played ice hockey for two years as a kid. I was, without doubt, the worst player on the team. But, even with the humiliation and bruises that went along with that, the experience was instructive.

Overall, from what I've seen, merely being in a worthy game is a lot better than not being in it at all. At first glance, it's all about the score. But what we don't readily see is the process that gets us to the score. Even if the score is lousy, we can still get better, tougher, and smarter by going through the process. We can, in a sense, win even when we lose.

For example, being the worst player meant that I had to take a lot more thumping than I was able to dish out, and there's a lot to be said for knowing how to roll with that. Hockey is a rough game. But as one of my friends says, it's not how many times you're knocked down that matters, it's how many times you get back up that really counts.

In the summer between the two seasons that I played, my parents sent me to a high-dollar hockey training camp. It didn't improve my game much, though. Not even the best coaches can spin gold out of mud.

But there was, in fact, a real gem in this field. One coach was from India, not usually a place you'd associate with hockey. I think he had migrated to Canada where many, if not most, of our training coaches were from. He taught us his technique for pre-game meditation.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A marijuana governor's revelation and teen use went down

Colorado's governor has changed and now believes legalization is a good thing. Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper (D) opposed the campaign to legalize marijuana in his state. But in a recent interview with CNN's Cristina Alesci, Hickenlooper seems to have warmed up to legalization after seeing its successful first year in Colorado, which was one of the first two states to legalize pot through a ballot initiative in 2012.

The governor said: "It hasn't been the economic miracle, the economic sensation that people thought it was going to be," Hickenlooper said. "But at the same time, it hasn't been the nightmare that a lot of us skeptics and critics thought it would be." Asked if he's changed his stance on pot since 2012, Hickenlooper elaborated: I think I have changed. I mean I'm still in the process. I haven't made up my mind. Hickenlooper points out Colorado's legalization rollout has faced few problems so far. The most dire warnings—like those about an increase in crime—never became reality. And the state government is getting \$75 million in revenue from it all—not that much for a \$10-billion general budget, but it's money that was going to criminals before.

It should be obvious the question "If the CNMI should legalize it?" has been answered by a governor who was once against legalization and the only question is how to best legalize, control, and live with marijuana in our society. But unlike Colorado that only collects 7 percent sales tax, the CNMI government operation I am proposing will be far more financially beneficial collecting 100 percent of all revenues that will be shared with the private sector. The CNMI can have the best marijuana laws to create state revenues and the best controls in the nation if the Legislature will follow the researched plan that I have proposed.

How legalizing pot affected 1M teens

A big boost for medical marijuana advocates: A massive study involving data on a million teenagers in 48 states has found no evidence that legalizing pot for medical use does anything to increase teen usage, the *Guardian* reports. The study, published in the *Lancet Psychiatry* journal, looked at some 1,098,270 8th

As it turns out, I was joining family tradition on that note. My father and grandfather, both of whom were varsity athletes and military officers, were well-schooled and well-practiced in such techniques. Grandpa, as a matter of fact, lived in India in the 1930s and I'm told he started medical school there.

As for hockey camp, had I been a really good player, or even an adequate player, I might have ignored that Indian coach and what (at the time) seemed like a strange and alien method. In fact, I remember that some of my peers scoffed at it, reasoning that you don't learn to play hockey by not playing hockey, and that you don't get good at doing something by practicing doing nothing. How can you get faster by learning to be still? It didn't make sense.

But, being at the bottom of the barrel, I was receptive to anything that held any promise of improving me. I guess we could say that in this case, it was the low ground, not the high ground, that gathered the water.

During the second season, luck was with me and I managed to score two goals in one game. This put us ahead 2-0, so my teammates took full advantage of the elbow-room to keep feeding me the puck so I could rack up a third goal, a milestone called a "hat trick" in hockey.

At one point, everything came together in an almost magical sequence. The other team's goalie came too far away from the goal thus leaving it wide open. My teammate to my left had the puck (the disk that's the equivalent of a ball in other sports) and I, by pure, bumbling luck, wound up centered in front of the empty goal and in a perfect position to score.

At this juncture time stood still at intervals, only moving forward in slow-motion clicks.

Click: I remember my teammate passing the puck to me. It was a perfect pass, arriving just in front of me where my stick could con-

nect with it.

Click: I see that the goal is still wide open.

Click: The crowd is yelling.

Click: Instead of stopping the puck with my stick and then lining up a good shot, I decide to go for a triumphant, fan-pleasing slap at the puck. After all, this shot is so easy and so close that not even I can mess it up.

Click: I mess it up. My ill-advised swipe at the puck misses the thing entirely. The puck goes whizzing by me and I hear it hit the boards to my right.

Click, click, and more clicks: The coach pulls my line (a set of players) off the ice, another line takes our place, and the coach asks me, rhetorically and repetitively, "HOW STUPID CAN YOU BE?"

Well, pretty stupid, I'll admit. But hopefully not too stupid to have learned yet another lesson: All it takes is a pang of complacency to erase all your hard work, your buddies' hard work, and all your good luck.

Getting knocked down is one thing. Knocking yourself down, though, is something else. On the ice or off, then, sometimes our greatest opponent is the one looking back at us in the mirror.

And that's what I learned from being the worst player on the team.



By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit [Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com](http://EdStephensJr.com). His column runs every Friday.

grade, 10th grade, and 12th grade students over 24 years; the teens had been asked if they used pot in the last 30 days. The researchers found that teenage pot use not only failed to rise in the 21 contiguous states where medical marijuana was legalized as of 2014 (Alaska and Hawaii bring the nation's total to 23), usage actually went down among the youngest teenagers, from about 8 percent before the law was passed to 6 percent after.

In states that brought in medical marijuana laws, teen pot use was already slightly higher than in other states, at about 16 percent usage to 13 percent. Experts say that could be due to a more liberal general attitude toward the drug, *Live Science* reports. Please note that in the CNMI marijuana use is widely sociably acceptable and should see the same kind of decrease in teen use as states with a similar use level.

"Our study findings suggest that the debate over the role of medical marijuana laws in adolescent marijuana use should cease, and that resources should be applied to identifying the factors that do affect risk," the researchers wrote. As for why pot use fell among 8th graders after it was legalized for medical purposes, here's one theory: that the teens started to see marijuana as a relatively harmless medical product, which "certainly doesn't fit with the idea of being a rebellious teenager," writes Debra Borchardt in *Forbes*.

This was a very powerful and informing study that destroys

Diversionary mental fatigue strategy

The military is determined to secure its land needs through condemnation action and not through equitable and compensable means. How else can one reasonably explain the time frame given to the people of the Commonwealth to read, digest, and completely comprehend thousands and thousands of pages contained in the Environmental Impact Study EIS within the 90-day allotted time period?

The EIS documents contained technical terms and a barrage of military jargons and they expect the people of the Commonwealth to literally internalize all of the information in 90 days. It just defies practicality. Having us go through this reading exercise is just a camouflage and a pretext to their designed strategy. Very likely, the United States will assert its authority through the Covenant by way of condemnation. While Section 806 of the Covenant allows for the United States to execute the power of eminent domain for those purposes that specifically serves

the myth that children will go crazy smoking marijuana under medical legalization and even full legalization. We now have the proof that legalization is not an influencing factor to making teens use marijuana as skeptics once believed. Based on my own observations of teen marijuana users it is more "peer driven" and "environmentally driven through relationships such as an older family member who grows and smokes and allows teen use." The only difference under full legalization is more access potential with the hundreds of dispensaries that can't be fully monitored in every aspect of their operation. But a CNMI government operation will eliminate the worry of marijuana being sold to our youth at a government (state) store.

The CNMI is figuratively standing on a gold mine but we act like we don't know what to do and to make it worst we are moving at a snail's pace while the rest of America is moving at warp speed figuratively. There is absolutely no reason why the CNMI should at the very least be experimenting with full legalization because we can never be successful in dealing with all the good and bad effects of marijuana until we try to deal with it! One people, one direction for full legalization and a brighter future for the CNMI!

Ambrose M. Bennett

Kagman

the public good, condemning NMD's property solely to establish military training facility to sharpen killing skills, I say is not serving the public good.

People of the Commonwealth, this is the audacity of the Environmental Impact Study EIS that the military has presented. The true intent of the military is not for us to thoroughly understand what the study is all about but to own our will and confuse our judgments. It took the military years and a host of their own experts to compile these voluminous applied and environmental sciences and now they are imposing a time frame on us to make an informed decision on their own assessments. I consider this a deliberate "diversionary mental fatigue" (DMF) strategy employed by our infamous military war wizards.

Am I highly critical of the military as a defender of our democracy? The real truth is I am not. As a matter of fact, three of my children are serving in the military and all of them have been deployed to risky places like Iraqi, Afghanistan, and South Korea. My vocal objection to the military is their intent to occupy, use, destroy, and contaminate our islands. If you don't believe that this will happen, just look at how the military treats its own veterans and all the places they occupied. There are more than enough

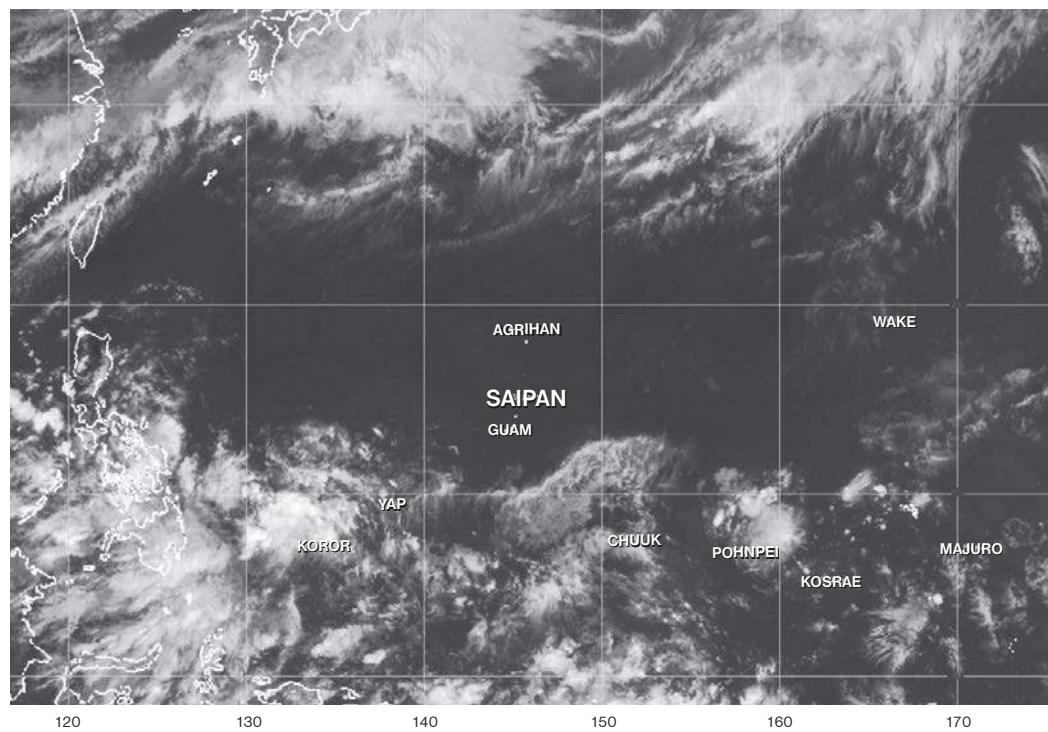
See LETTERS on Page 13

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2015

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends southeastward from 9N130E and through a weak circulation centered west of Koror near 8N132E to a second weak circulation centered southeast Yap near 2N144E then turns northeastward to end south of Chuuk near 6N152E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the first circulation over portions of Palau west of a line from 2N132E to 10N137E. Similar weather is also seen within 70 miles of a line from EQ135E to 6N141E to 6N144E. A third area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms is present near the trough and second circulation south of Chuuk 90 miles of a line from 5N147E to 6N152E. A weak disturbance west of Kosrae is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms northeast of Pohnpei within 100 miles of a line from 10N159E to 7N161E. A trade-wind disturbance is causing widely scattered showers south of Kwajalein and Majuro south of a line from 7N167E to 8N180.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia		
Guam And Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 82
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 88 ▼ 79
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 79
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▼ 79
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 84 ▼ 80

Tides		
Saipan Harbor		
4:46 AM	Today	Low Tide: 1.1 Feet
9:27 AM	Today	High Tide: 1.8 Feet
4:49 PM	Today	Low Tide: -0.3 Feet
11:47 PM	Today	High Tide: 1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	5:48 AM	6:49 PM
Saturday	5:48 AM	6:49 PM
Sunday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Monday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Tuesday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	7:59 AM	8:59 PM
Saturday	8:51 AM	9:43 PM
Sunday	9:41 AM	10:25 PM
Monday	10:29 AM	11:04 PM
Tuesday	11:16 AM	11:43 PM

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 28, 2015

DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3	UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:15pm	3:55pm	6, 7 via Rota	UA5039	12:55pm	1:45pm	6, 7
UA5078	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 5	UA5038	1:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5038	3:05pm	3:55pm	2, 4	UA5077	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 5
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5	UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7	UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5	UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)			GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				
UA5039	2:15pm	2:50pm	6, 7	UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN				
UA5039	3:20pm	3:55pm	6, 7	UA5038	2:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)			PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN				
DL287	6:05am	1:05am+1	2, 6 via NRT	DL298	4:30am	2:55pm	3, 7 via NRT
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 6	DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily
DL297	4:30pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN				
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	7C3402	9:30am	3:20pm	1, 2, 4, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	10:55am	4:25pm	3, 5, 6
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	1, 2, 5, 6, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C3403	5:25am	9:10am	3, 4	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3401	4:20pm	8:05pm	1, 2, 4, 7	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
7C3401	5:25pm	9:10pm	3, 5, 6	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN				
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN				
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)			GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN				
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	DL276/288	9:30am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5070/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	Daily via GUM	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM	PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

HANMI chair welcomes opportunity for new leases

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands says it welcomes the opportunity for its member hotels to enter into subsequent public land leases, a move endorsed by a recently issued legal opinion.



er, and are now recovering together."

Cavanagh also stated that the government's fiduciary duty requires that consideration be made on how best to ensure a healthy and sustainable tourism economy.

"Our hotels on public land serve a healthy tourism market mix of Japan, Korea, China, and Russia," said Cavanagh. "When we talk about the government's fiduciary duty, we believe the CNMI needs to avoid putting all of our economic eggs in one basket. We all suffered when the Japan economic crisis hit in the 1990s and the CNMI economy crashed. Ensuring market diversity is a critical part of fiduciary duty."

"Mariana Resort & Spa, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Kanoa Resort, and Pacific Islands Club Saipan all began discussions, regarding their respective lease proposals, at the written request of DPL Secretary Pete A. Tenorio over a year ago."

HANMI members account for most of the hotel rooms in the Northern Marianas. Last year, HANMI members contributed \$13.2-million in hotel occupancy tax to government coffers, as well as \$4.4-million in gross revenue receipts.

The hotel industry is the largest private employer in the CNMI, with HANMI members currently employ about 1,600 employees. (HANMI)

Iiga Pisa presentation tonight



The public is invited to a presentation by a visiting Samoan chief, w h i c h

Pisa begins at 6pm tonight, June 19, at the Visitors Center Theater, American Memorial Park.

Iiga Olivia will talk about her grandfather, Iiga Pisa, who was exiled to Saipan along with nine other Samoan chiefs in 1909.

Seven other descendants of Iiga Pisa are also on Saipan to participate in the Humanities Council's program, which focuses on the history behind the exiled chiefs.

Pisa undertook a perilous 120-day voyage to Guam in a small Samoan paddling canoe in June 1915. He spent the next four years in Guam learning English before returning to his homeland in 1919. He was the only one of the exiled chiefs to witness Samoan independence in 1962.

Iiga Olivia, was raised by Pisa, will provide a personal account of her late grandfather and the stories that he related about his time on Saipan includ-

LETTERS

From Page 11

evidences on the subject of military land destructions and social upheavals on occupied territories and regions.

My other concern is affecting empathy toward those of our Chamorros and Carolinians who have fallen victims of the dreaded disease call cancer. I am not a health expert and neither am I a trained professional but the unusually high rate of cancer related deaths in the Commonwealth is exceedingly alarming. Comparatively speaking, a community the size of ours when reference to a similar rural areas in the United States in a per capita basis, our cancer rate victims are disproportionately high.

The most alarming part of

this observation is that the victims are predominantly post war born. There is creditable correlation between those toxic and hazardous chemicals the military used and did not properly disposed during and after the war, and concealed from us seeping through our water lenses that are causing this upsurge in our cancer rate victims. Here in the Commonwealth we almost exclusively dependent on underground water for our potable water supply. How else can one explain the high rates of ovarian, colon, breast, kidney, liver, and other forms of cancer in the CNMI? The victims are 99.99 percent Chamorros and Carolinians.

In the pre-war populations of Chamorros and Carolinians this terrifying and deadly disease is almost unheard of. This is the reason why our elders are bewildered by the wide spread of cancer in the CNMI victimizing relatively young middle-age group. There is empirical evidence to suggest that the military's gross negligence in its handling of its hazardous and toxic chemicals on the islands is an accomplice to this debilitating disease in the CNMI.

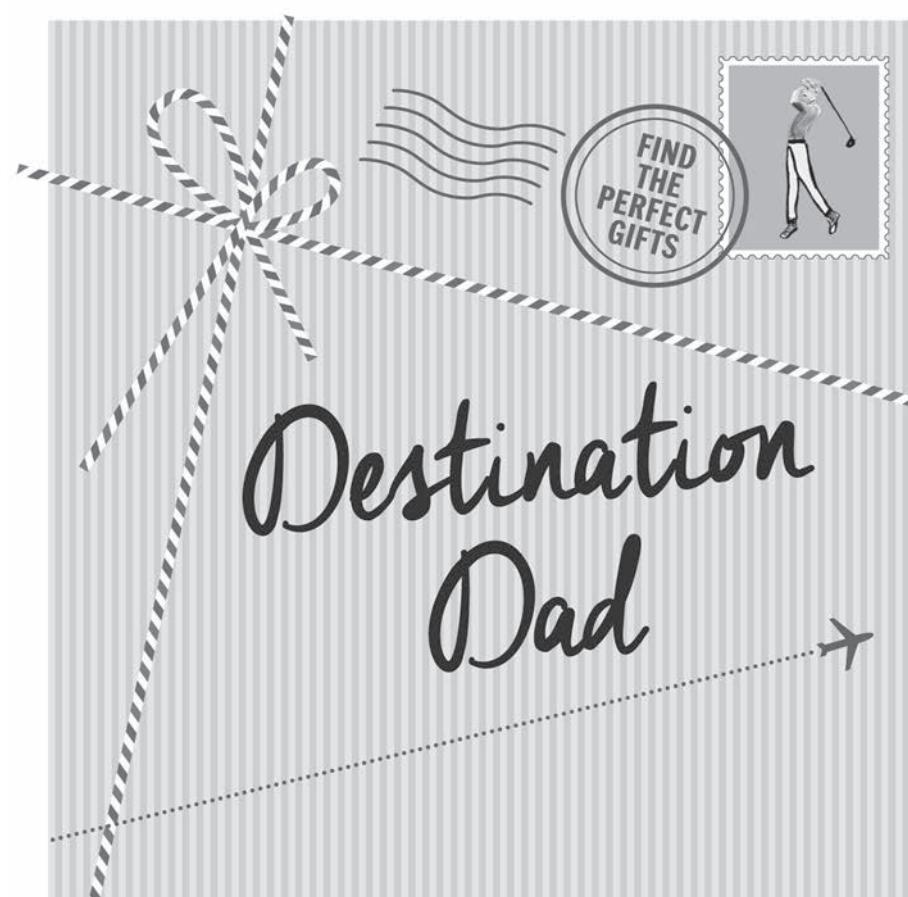
People of the CNMI, especially Chamorros and Carolinians we have every reason to be fearful and distrustful of the military practices and their cavalier attitudes. The secretiveness of the military is worrisome but worst of they can easily make things and people disappear without a trace.

Daniel O. Quitugua

Kanat Tabla



On June 6, 2015, Mr. Sasamoto walked into San Roque Market early in the morning to purchase some items. As he was checking out at the cash register area, he decided to purchase \$15 worth of assorted instant scratchies. Scratching off the winning Quick Cash Ticket, his first impression is that he had only won \$100, but when he scratched it off completely, he was surprised to learn that he is a winner of \$1000. On the photo above is Mr. Sasamoto receiving his cash prize from the Northern Mariana Sports Association. There are more prizes to win! Good Luck to all the players!



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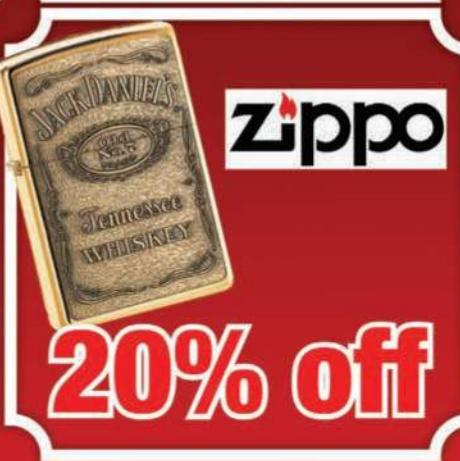
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SHEFA: Most beneficiaries fail to follow compliance rules

Majority of the beneficiaries of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance fail to follow compliance rules.

Scholarship administrator Rose Pangelinan told lawmakers Thursday that currently, as high as 60 percent of beneficiaries failed to respond back to SHEFA.

A beneficiary is required to inform SHEFA of his or her status as part of a "compliance" clause in the beneficiary's contract.

Those who did not complete their education must also return the funds to SHEFA.

But according to Pangelinan, SHEFA is saddled with

issues regarding the ways to get in touch with SHEFA "resources" or those who benefit from the program.

She said currently, the SHEFA has issued 230 notices for compliance but only 40 responded. "Some graduates do not report," she said.

Tracking down these "re-

sources" is the big challenge that SHEFA is facing, the administrator said.

She said she is in the process of hiring a dedicated staff to specifically address this concern.

Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan), in the meeting with SHEFA officials, said he wanted to know of the real

role of SHEFA if "it is just issuing checks."

Pangelinan said it has been three years that SHEFA has been struggling with the concern, and its lack of dedicated resources to address this concern is the main challenge.

When asked of more details, Pangelinan said about 50 per-

cent of SHEFA beneficiaries are in the CNMI. The rest are elsewhere, either in the mainland or in other universities abroad.

Pangelinan said once the hiring of dedicated personnel is completed, the SHEFA will hopefully be able to address this major concern. (Joel Pinaroc)

LibDay parade, float application deadline is extended to June 24

Skywalker Communications Group is extending the deadline for submission for the parade and float applications to June 24 at 4:30pm, according to 2015 Liberation Day committee member Rose-Ada Hocog.

"The applications can be picked up at both the Saipan Mayor's Office and the Skywalker Communications office

(Room 204 at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe)," Hocog said.

Aside from parade and float participant, the 2015 Liberation Day committee is still looking for more food and non-food vendors.

"We encourage all interested parties to apply," she added.

Only 48 booths overall are

available for vendors and the signup is on a first-come, first-served basis, so the 2015 Liberation Committee is urging all interested vendors to sign up as soon as possible.

The prices for booth rentals are \$2,000 for food and beverage (non-alcoholic); \$1,500 for carnival booth

games; \$1,500 for retail and souvenirs; \$1,200 for arts and crafts; and \$150 for July 4 roving street vendors. There is a \$200 deposit for the booth.

The parade is set for July 4 with participants expected to be on site by 7am, while the parade kicks off at Quartermaster

around 9am. It will go toward the carnival grounds at the Gagapan Fishing Base.

The booths open on June 27 and close on Aug. 16, 2015, giving vendors ample time to sell their products or services.

The 2015 Liberation Day Carnival grounds will open on June 27 and will run 6pm-10pm

Mondays to Thursdays, 6pm-11pm on Fridays, 10am to 11pm on Saturdays and 10am to 10pm on Sundays.

For more information, call the Saipan Mayor's Office at 234-6208 or the Skywalker Communications office at 234-7942 or email ldcnmi@gmail.com. (Jayson Camacho)

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Contact Tony Muna

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Hospital receives \$10K anonymous donation

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson.camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. received a cash donation of \$10,100 from an anonymous resident, according to CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muna yesterday.

Muna said that they received the donation from a resident who wanted to remain "anonymous."

"The donor wanted the gift to go to the hospital's needs. Plans on how the donation will be utilized have not been finalized," Muna said.

The cash-strapped hospital received the cash donation and Muna said they're happy to receive it. She said the \$10,100 donation would help on several hospital needs, which could possibly be used for more beds or other hospital amenities.

"The hospital leadership and I are deliberating on a project or item that will render the best



Muna

treatment options and better health outcomes for our hospital patients," Muna said.

"This is a big deal for the Commonwealth Health Center and we cannot express enough how grateful we are for the donor's generosity. Thoughtful gifts of all sizes help the corporation and the hospital continue to improve healthcare in the CNMI," she added.

In related news, CHCC's business plan is being reviewed before any submissions to lawmakers and other related entities.

In order to meet lawmakers' expectations and increase the standard of hospital care, the CHCC worked on identifying different revenue streams that will be outlined in a business plan in order for CHCC to address its costs.

Muña said the business plan includes different revenue streams CHCC's financial status, and its proposed plan to bail itself out of its financial morass.

US military to conduct training on FDM, W-517

The CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Office of the Governor, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas (N3) Guam, would like to inform the general public that the U.S. Military Unit will be conducting military exercises on Farallon De Mendenilla and Area W-517. The schedule dates and time are as followed:

- June 22, 5am-11pm FDM 20 EBS Military Training
- June 23, 1pm-6pm FDM 20 EBS Military Training
- June 24, 11am-4pm FDM 20 EBS Military Training
- June 25, 10:30am-4pm FDM 20 EBS Military Training
- June 26, 9am-7pm FDM 20 EBS Military Training
- June 22, 5am-1pm W-517 20 EBS, WLB-215, HSC-25 Military Training
- June 23, 8am-8pm W-517 20 EBS, WLB-215, HSC-25

Military Training

- June 24, 12pm-8pm W-517 20 EBS, WLB-215, HSC-25

Military Training

The general location of this activity will be at Farallon De Mendenilla on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants and Area W-517 irregular polygon south of Guam comprising southwest into international waters.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity Gov. Eloy S. Inos, is strongly advising the general public especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

The cooperation and understanding of the general public is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the CNMI Emergency Operation Center- Dispatch Center at telephone number (670) 237-8000, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0 or dial CNMI 211 for this advisory. (PR)

Disney's Blinco at Saturday Read Aloud Program

Walt Disney Parks and Resort Hospital Zoological manager Leanne Blinco will be visiting Joeten-Kiyu Public Library tomorrow, June 20, 2015, at 10am during the Saturday Read Aloud Program. The community is invited to attend the special presentation in the Children of Our Homeland Center.

Blinco of Disney's Animal Kingdom is working with

the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and the CNMI Department of Fish and Wildlife to conduct studies in the CNMI's local birds. Listen to her speak about Golden White-Eye and the Marianas Fruit Dove.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to email or call 235-7316 or 235-7322. (PR)

Happy Father's Day!

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Greetings from



BECQ reaches favorable resolution with HS Lee

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality ensures construction projects in the CNMI's coastal zone adhere to its regulations promoting sustainable development. On March 11, 2015, enforcement staff issued a Notice of Violation to H.S. Lee Construction

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy second birthday to the light of many lives, Aubrey Ysabella. We love you so much princess! Happy Aubrey Day! From the family.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy 13th birthday to Marione Corpus. May all of your wishes be fulfilled on your special day, as ours was the day you were born. Love, Papa and Mama.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy sweet 16th birthday Ma. Theresa Dalusong. We wish you all the best and may all your dreams come true. We love you, from your family and friends.

Co., Inc. for misrepresenting the scope of its project to the Division of Coastal Resource Management.

"The importance of candor and accuracy in permit applications cannot be overstated," according to Kate Fuller, assistant attorney general. As a result of the Notice of Violation, H.S. Lee agreed to pay DCRM and to promote community enhancements, highlighting sustainability and sustainable building practices, throughout Garapan.

H.S. Lee is building a three-story building in Garapan, which will be called H.S. Lee Plaza upon completion. The

company was upset to learn that its permit application was inconsistent with its construction plan. Violating regulations and permit conditions can result in heavy fines. Upon receiving DCRM's Notice of Violation, H.S. Lee and DCRM worked together to find a resolution.

HS Lee to pay fee, install community enhancements throughout Garapan

H.S. Lee has agreed to the following:

- To repair the concrete gutter covers on the west side of Beach Road from the new Cha Baker to Johnny's Bar;
- To pay \$1,000 to DCRM each year for ten years for the

purpose of promoting the maintenance of the Garapan drainage system;

- To provide people and equipment from KIMCO Enterprises, Inc. or another construction contractor to assist with the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's annual cleanup of the Garapan area;

- To install a rain garden and permeable pavement features on its property, and incorporate additional viable environmental best management practices, such as grass swales, green parking design, infiltration trenches, inlet protection devices, rain cisterns, vegetated filter strips, and/or a vegetated roof; and
- To install and maintain signage explaining to the pub-

lic the ecological benefit of the best management practices employed on H.S. Lee's property.

BECQ administrator Frank M. Rabauliman commends H.S. Lee for its collaboration after receiving the enforcement notice and encourages all permittees to review their applications and the conditions of their construction permits to ensure no misunderstandings occur. DCRM regulations exist to ensure developments in the CNMI proceed in an environmentally sustainable manner, ensuring a healthy environment for generations to come. DCRM will continue to ensure permit conditions are met, in order to provide a clean and healthy environment for the citizens of the CNMI. (BECQ)

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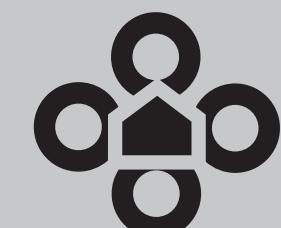
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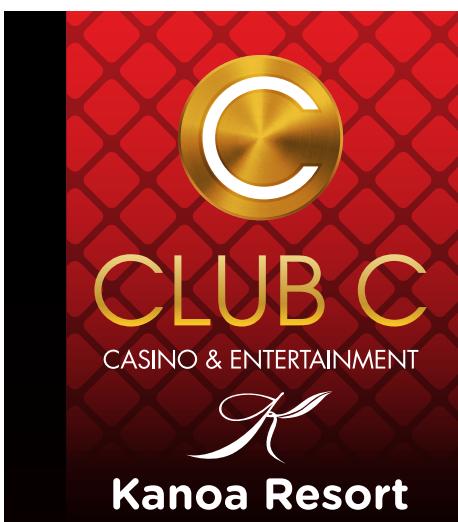
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Three Chinese travel magazines visit NMI



MVA
Representatives of Chinese travel magazines Traveling Scope, WiTrip, and Travel Plus visited Saipan, Tinian, and Rota on May 25-31, 2015.

Three Chinese magazines have recently wrapped up seven days of coverage in the Northern Marianas targeting high-end travelers.

Travelling Scope, WiTrip, and Travel Plus visited Saipan, Tinian, and Rota on May 25-31, covering a wide range of tourist attractions in this multi-island tropical beach resort.

Travelling Scope, with a circulation of 657,000, targets high-income groups making several trips a year and will feature an eight-page spread on the Northern Marianas this month. WiTrip, with a circulation of 200,000, targets well-heeled members of large banks, high-end private clubs, and other large companies and will carry a 10-page feature. Travel Plus will dedicate six pages to the Northern Marianas in its August issue.

On Tinian, the group took in an island tour of scenic and historic sites, a sunset at Taga Beach and the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

On Rota the group visited the Swimming Hole, As Nieves Latte Stone Quarry, I Chenchon Bird Sanctuary, Rota Zoo, Tonga Cave, Songsong Village

Lookout, the award-winning Teteto Beach, the Cave Museum, and a coconut plantation.

The group was assisted by the Marianas Visitors Authority with film permitting and a language-specific coordinator.

"On Rota, to emphasize the warm local hospitality, we arranged a beach barbecue party at Teteto Beach with a local family, live band, and traditional crafts," said MVA Marketing manager Bruce Bateman.

On Saipan the FAM tour group lodged and filmed at Pacific Islands Club Saipan and Fiesta Resort Spa. Other activities and locations included snorkeling at Grotto, Mandi Asia Spa, Saipan World Resort dinner show, Country House Restaurant, Hard Rock Café, Sea Touch marine animal encounter, a lagoon tour aboard the submarine Deep Star, award-winning Managaha, parasailing, Kinpachi Restaurant, shopping, and an island tour.

So far this fiscal year, over 119,000 visitors from China have travelled to the Northern Marianas, a 27-percent increase compared to the same period last year. (MVA)



KHS BEACH CLEANUP

Closing out school year 2014-2015, Mr. Sizemore and Ms. Kaipat's social studies and science students at Kagman High School cleaned up Marine Beach.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



2015 CNMI LIBERATION FESTIVITIES

2015.6.27 - 8.16

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Time: 6:00pm – 11:00pm

Location: Garapan Fishing Base



Filipinos on Saipan celebrate Kalayaan 2015



JAIME R. VERGARA

Philippine Honorary Consul of the CNMI Glicerio "Eli" Arago delivers his speech during the United Filipino Organization Philippine Independence Day celebration last Saturday at the Marianas Business Plaza.

By JAIME R. VERGARA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

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ENGLISH

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Caution.
After opening, please drink as soon as possible.

CHINESE

响氢水效果。
由氢分子的作用下，对抗疾病和超过20症状的效果的功效，
它已被证明的临床研究医学。

的氢水的美容效果。
通过吸收体的氢水，并顺利血，并准备肠道环境
出院的浪费，有一个美丽的肌肤的效果。
此外，许多妇女来说，这也是有效的便秘的麻烦。

由氢水溶液的细胞在体内的作用被激活，新陈代谢得到改善，
我可以期待的美丽，美白，减肥的效果。

注意事项。
开封后，请尽快饮用。

KOREAN

수소의 효과 효능.
수소 분자의 작용에 의해 20 개 이상의 질환이나 증상에
대한 효과 효능이 의학적인 임상 실증에 의해 입증되고
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수소의 미용 효과.
수소를 체내에 흡수하여 혈액을 보송 보송하고 장내 환경을
정비노폐물을 배출하고 피부 미용 효과가 있습니다. 또,
여성에게 많은 변화의 문제에도 효과적입니다.

수소의 작용으로 체내의 세포가 활성화되고 신진 대사
기능을 향상시키고 미용, 미백, 다이어트 효과를 기대할 수
있습니다.

주의.
개봉 후에는 가급적 빨리 마셔주세요.

JAPANESE

水素分子の作用により、20種類以上の疾患や症状に対する効果効能が、医学的な臨床実験により証明されています。

水素水の美容効果。
水素水を体内に吸収することで、血液をサラサラにし、腸内環境を整え老廃物を排出し、美肌効果があります。
又、女性に多い、便秘のトラブルにも効果的です。

水素水の働きで、体内的細胞が活性化され、代謝機能が向上し、美容、美白、ダイエット効果が期待できます。

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"Tagumpay sa pagbabagong nasimulan (victory of the new start already made), abot kamay na ng bayan (extended hand of the nation)" was boldly announced and printed on stage of the Philippine Independence Day celebration under the shaded parking and walkway of the Marianas Business Plaza last Sunday, June 14.

The occasion belonged to the gather-about, eat-out, sing-out, shout-out and out-dance-everyone-who-dares-foot-tap Pinoys that characterized the celebration of the Philippines' 117 Independence Day declared against Spain by General Emilio Aguinaldo in Kawit, Cavite, 1898.

Who gathered about? Tan Holdings' executive vice president Glicerio "Eli" Arago, the Philippine Honorary Consul of the CNMI, was there, having graced the flag-raising event June 12, moseyed over to Tinian on Saturday, then returned to Saipan on June 14, actively performing his duties. The program started at noon, and Arago elucidated on the occasion's theme, affirming a people's new start but requiring all to join a cooperative effort to move forward together.

Recognizable in the crowd mid-afternoon was soccer aficionado Tan Cho Yee, aka Jerry, sporting his red Rolando football shirt. Tan Holdings' companies employ many who are members of the United Filipino Organization, the Bayani group, and other bodies.

OK. The eat-out. One can tell that the crowd had a sweet tooth. Most of the food and beverages on sale were high on sugar content, and the lard that cooked the fried food and the oil that dripped from the

barbecue explained wayward girths; half a reef fish on eggplant and kangkong were the healthy fare.

Young voices sang beautifully though they seemed anxious to shout-out volume on a high note. Still parents were proud as their children handed music on USBs to the sound crew, adorably and confidently took to the stage to entertain the crowd.

Group performances took their vocal and audio turns, but the local high school swinging singers out-wiggled and out-swayed each other on the stage floor.

Then Larry Lee, erstwhile NMC business instructor, a recipient of a Legislature recognition of his community work, former Philippine PCV in the early '80s, got his band to sing a stylized version of *Dahil Sa Iyo*, and the crowd went wild. The artist practices his art with a camera and the uke. Lito and Femie Rey also had their Cornerstone Church group counted on stage along with other performing groups who entertained the audience.

Freedom (kalayaan) is a banded about on festive occasions but an elusive reality to 90 million Filipinos scattered over an archipelago whose wealth is half owned by 3,000 families.

Bayan ko, binihag ka, now refers to the stranglehold of a few. Most of the nation's 10 million-some in diaspora, including the crowd gathered Sunday afternoon on Saipan, are nomads who go where the compensation would allow them to remit earnings to their beloveds back home. A sad story, but it is also a permission to be street-smart world-wide Pinoy. It is time to be sick of the *binihag ka* story.

Kalayaan! It's what Pinoys decide that it be their story. We concur.

Business

Auto industry quality improves, but Japanese don't keep pace

DETROIT (AP)—The quality of cars and trucks made by European, Korean and U.S. companies has improved so much in recent years that Japanese automakers, long the industry standard, are having trouble keeping pace.

The latest survey on new vehicle quality by the J.D. Power consulting firm also found that despite continued problems with entertainment and connectivity systems, quality is starting to improve for the auto industry as a whole. For the first time since 2012, buyers reported fewer problems in new cars and trucks than the previous year.

"The cars being built, for the most part, are very good quality coming out of the box," said John Humphreys, senior vice president of J.D. Power.

The industry score went up because many companies improved existing models, and the top companies did better with mechanical and infotainment quality of new models, J.D. Power said.

The 2015 survey of more than 84,000 car buyers in February and March found that Porsche was once again the top

brand for quality. Kia vaulted five spots to take second place and its sister brand Hyundai finished fourth. Jaguar, in third, and Infiniti rounded out the top five finishers in the survey, which asked about problems in the first 90 days of ownership.

The worst-performing brands were Fiat, Smart, Chrysler, Subaru and Jeep. The car owners all had 2015 models.

The Korean brands have been improving quality for years by bringing consumers into the process as they design cars, especially with electronics, Humphreys said. U.S. and European brands also improved. The Japanese brands raised their overall score, but the rest of the industry improved at a faster rate, he said.

Korean brands led the industry with only 90 problems per 100 vehicles, 11 fewer problems than last year. European brands followed at 113 problems, passing Japanese brands for the first time. Japanese brands combined had 114 problems per 100 vehicles, two better than last year. That tied with U.S. brands, according to the survey.

IT'S YOUR **DAY**

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From the management and staff of

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Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Printing funded by the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Grant under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Service Administration.



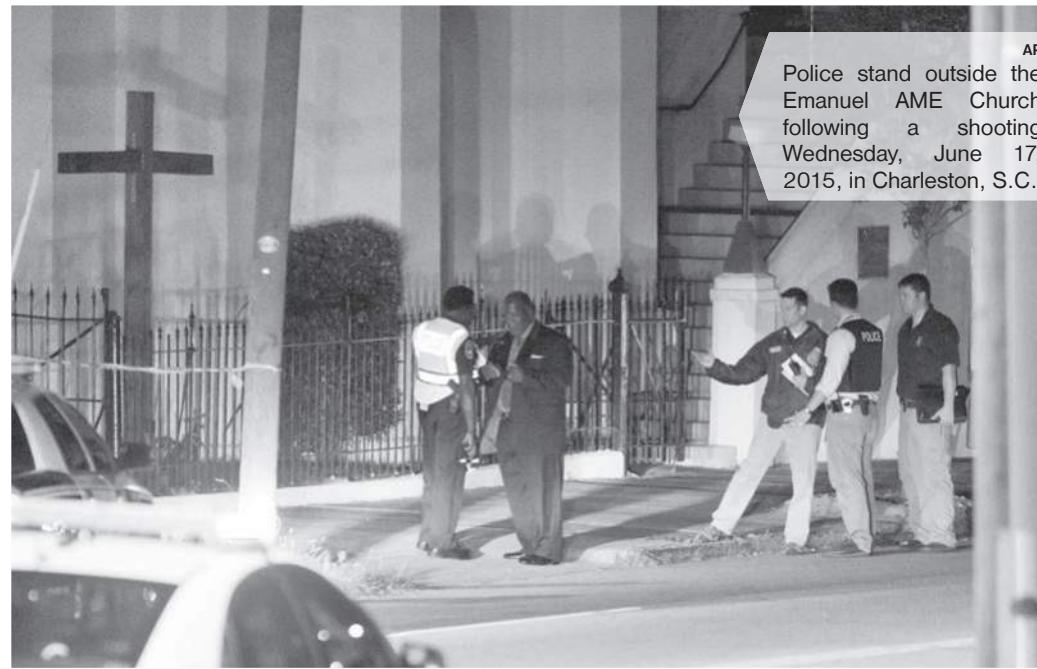
Nation

9 fatally shot at historic black church in Charleston, SC

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP)—A white man opened fire during a prayer meeting inside a historic black church in downtown Charleston on Wednesday night, killing nine people in an assault that authorities described as a hate crime. The shooter was still at large.

The shooting took place at the Emanuel AME Church, Police Chief Greg Mullen said. He said there were survivors, but would not say how many, or how many were inside at the time of the shooting. He also would not confirm whether the pastor, state Sen. Clementa Pinckney, was one of the victims.

Mullen described the suspect as a white male in his early 20s. He said he believed it was a hate



Deadly balcony collapse tied to rotted wooden beams

BERKELEY, Calif. (AP)—The balcony collapse that killed six college students appears to have been caused by rotted wooden beams, Berkeley's mayor said Wednesday as the victims' heartbroken loved ones began arriving in the U.S. from Ireland.

Mayor Tom Bates said investigators believe the wood was not caulked and sealed properly at the time of construction and was damaged by moisture as a result.

The crowded fifth-floor balcony broke off an apartment building during a 21st-birthday party early Tuesday held by visiting Irish college students, dumping 13 people 50 feet onto the pavement. In addition to the six killed, seven were seriously hurt.

"More than likely it was

caused by rain and caused by water damage that was done to the support beams," Bates said. He said it was "obviously a bad idea" for 13 people to crowd onto such a small balcony—it was about 40 square feet—but added that he is not blaming the victims.

Later in the day, however, the mayor said the water-damage theory was speculation on his part and not an official conclusion, and that the investigation is still underway.

Building inspectors also determined another balcony at the Library Gardens apartment complex was "structurally unsafe and presented a collapse hazard." They ordered it demolished.

Two other balconies were red-tagged, or declared off-limits, at the apartments, which

were completed in 2007 and are popular among visiting students and those at the nearby University of California, Berkeley.

Segue Construction, the Library Gardens general contractor, was involved in two San Francisco Bay Area lawsuits in recent years involving allegations of dry rot and substandard balconies at condo and apartment projects in Millbrae and San Jose. Among other things, Segue was accused of improperly waterproofing balconies.

Both cases were settled in 2013 with Segue, developers and other parties agreeing to pay millions of dollars.

Segue spokesman Sam Singer said such litigation is common on large projects and "has no bearing on the tragedy" in Berkeley.

"They are completely dif-

ferent," he said.

crime, but would not elaborate.

"The only reason that someone could walk into a church and shoot people praying is out of hate," said Charleston Mayor Joseph P. Riley. "It is the most dastardly act that one could possibly imagine, and we will bring that person to justice. ... This is one hateful person."

As police and the city's mayor updated the news media, a group of pastors huddled together praying in a circle across the street.

Police moved members of the news media back away from the site due to what they called an "imminent" threat. They did not release any details.

The campaign of GOP presidential hopeful Jeb Bush sent

out an email saying that due to the shooting, the candidate had canceled an event planned in the city Thursday.

The Emmanuel AME church is a historic African-American church that traces its roots to 1816, when several churches split from Charleston's Methodist church.

One of its founders, Denmark Vesey, tried to organize a slave revolt in 1822. He was caught, and white landowners had his church burned in revenge. Parishioners worshipped underground until after the Civil War.

The shooting happened the day before the eighth anniversary of a fire at a furniture store that killed nine Charleston firefighters.

Rachel Dolezal facing new and old questions

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP)—Rachel Dolezal faced tough questions about her racial identity long before her career as a civil rights advocate and expert on African-American culture was derailed after recent revelations that she grew up "Caucasian."

More than a decade ago, Howard University's lawyers questioned whether she had tried to pose as African-American when she applied for admission to the historically black university in the nation's capital.

Dolezal, the Spokane NAACP leader who resigned this week after her parents said she had been pretending to be black but was actually white, now faces a swirl of criticism about past and recent

statements. And on Wednesday, Spokane leaders asked her to resign from a police oversight panel, citing misconduct.

At Howard University, Dolezal had accused the school of



wrote in the essay. "My struggles paled as I read of the atrocities so many ancestors faced in America."

On Wednesday, an independent investigation by the city of Spokane concluded that Dolezal acted improperly and violated government rules while leading the city's volunteer police oversight commission.

The report found that Dolezal violated the city's workplace harassment policy when she "engaged in conduct that humiliated, insulted or degraded" a city worker; abused her authority and showed bias against police.

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Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR MASTER PLANNING SERVICES

SAIPAN HARBOR MASTER PLAN PROJECT NO. CPA-SS-001-15

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Master Planning Services for the Saipan Harbor, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

These services are being funded by CPA. The service procurement is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package will be available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal on Tuesday, May 26, 2015. No fee is required for obtaining the RFQ package. Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 234-5962 and/or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, June 12, 2015, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Similar work experience in harbor master planning, including, but not limited to needs analysis, design, cost estimating, environmental review and permitting – (25 points)
2. Capability to perform all aspects of the project, such as analysis, planning, environmental evaluations, financial analysis and architectural and engineering design (25 points)
3. Level of proficiency in performing services promptly; and level of experience with the CPA projects – (15 points);
4. The general reputation of the consultant in terms of quality of work experience and services performed for projects, and the consultant's professional integrity and competence – (15 points);
5. Capacity to accomplish the work within the contract time – (10 points); and
6. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal – (10 points).

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., Monday, June 29, 2015**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect/engineer firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:

Ms. MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

Date: May 20, 2015

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR MASTER PLANNING SERVICES

TINIAN HARBOR MASTER PLAN PROJECT NO. CPA-TS-001-15

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Master Planning Services for the Tinian Harbor, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

These services are being funded by CPA. The service procurement is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package will be available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal on Tuesday, May 26, 2015. No fee is required for obtaining the RFQ package. Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 234-5962 and/or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, June 12, 2015, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Similar work experience in harbor master planning, including, but not limited to needs analysis, design, cost estimating, environmental review and permitting – (25 points)
2. Capability to perform all aspects of the project, such as analysis, planning, environmental evaluations, financial analysis and architectural and engineering design (25 points)
3. Level of proficiency in performing services promptly; and level of experience with the CPA projects – (15 points);
4. The general reputation of the consultant in terms of quality of work experience and services performed for projects, and the consultant's professional integrity and competence – (15 points);
5. Capacity to accomplish the work within the contract time – (10 points); and
6. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal – (10 points).

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., Monday, June 22, 2015**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect/engineer firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:

Ms. MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

Date: May 20, 2015

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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR MASTER PLANNING SERVICES

ROTA HARBOR MASTER PLAN PROJECT NO. CPA-RS-001-15

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Master Planning Services for the Rota West Harbor, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

These services are being funded by CPA. The service procurement are in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package will be available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal on Tuesday, May 26, 2015. No fee is required for obtaining the RFQ package. Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 234-5962 and/or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, June 12, 2015, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Similar work experience in harbor master planning, including, but not limited to needs analysis, design, cost estimating, environmental review and permitting – (25 points)
2. Capability to perform all aspects of the project, such as analysis, planning, environmental evaluations, financial analysis and architectural and engineering design (25 points)
3. Level of proficiency in performing services promptly; and level of experience with the CPA projects – (15 points);
4. The general reputation of the consultant in terms of quality of work experience and services performed for projects, and the consultant's professional integrity and competence – (15 points);
5. Capacity to accomplish the work within the contract time – (10 points); and
6. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal – (10 points).

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, June 26, 2015**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

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Date: May 20, 2015

Asia

Vietnam accuses China of attacking its fishermen

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—A Vietnamese official on Wednesday accused China of attacking its fishermen in three separate incidents over the past week in the disputed South China Sea.

Nguyen Thanh Hung, head of the fisheries union in Binh Chau village in central Quang Ngai province where the fishermen came from, said a Vietnamese trawler with 12 crew was intercepted by a Chinese military vessel while fishing near the Paracel islands on Sunday. He said the Chinese seized their catch and fishing equipment.

Hung said this followed incidents last week where Chinese military vessels used water can-

non to try to drive away a Vietnamese fishing boat, injuring two fishermen, while another Vietnamese fishing boat was intercepted and robbed of its catch and equipment while fishing near the Paracels.

"I strongly protest these Chinese actions," Hung said by telephone from Quang Ngai province. "This is our traditional fishing grounds, it's within Vietnamese sovereignty and our fishermen have been fishing there for generations."

The incidents come as Vietnam's foreign minister, Pham Bin Minh, who is also the deputy prime minister, began a three-day visit to China on Wednesday to talk about bilat-

eral cooperation, with the situation in the South China Sea expected to be high on the agenda.

Vietnam claims sovereignty over the Paracels, which were occupied by China after it drove off the U.S.-backed South Vietnamese navy in

1974, one year before the end of the Vietnam War.

The two communist neighbors along with the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan claim all or parts of the South China Sea.

China's massive land recla-

mation projects in the Spratly islands over the past two years have alarmed its neighbors and the United States.

Chinese Foreign Ministry said Tuesday that the reclamation projects on seven reefs and atolls will be completed within

days and will follow up with building infrastructure for military and civilian purposes.

The U.S. has said it takes no side on the sovereignty questions, but insists on the right of free navigation and urges all parties to negotiate a settlement.

Migrants say they witnessed Australian payment to boat crew

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)

—Two migrants said they witnessed an Australian official hand cash to the crew of a people-smuggling boat to take its passengers back to Indonesia.

The allegation of payments to people-smugglers has strained relations between Indonesia and Australia, which has a policy of turning back all migrants who arrive by boat. Migrants escaping poverty or oppression use Indonesia as a transit point for the perilous journey in often barely seaworthy vessels to Australia.

Earlier this month, police in Indonesia's East Nusa Tenggara province reported that the boat's

captain and five crew members, who are detained on remote Rote island, had about \$30,000 in cash. The group said they were paid to return the 65 migrants to Indonesia after being intercepted by an Australian navy ship on May 20.

One of the migrants in an interview broadcast Wednesday on Indonesian television said he saw U.S. dollars wrapped in plastic handed over to at least four members of the crew by an Australian official.

"They don't want to help us. They want the crew to turn us back to Indonesia with that money," he said. "It was not small money, everybody saw it."

MetroTV.

Australia's Prime Minister Tony Abbott has sidestepped questions about the incident but has said Australian authorities are being "incredibly creative" in their response to human trafficking.

A second man identified as Sri Lankan by the Indonesian broadcaster said the handover of money was visible to anyone on the boat.

"They asked the crew to bring us back to Indonesia with that money," he said. "It was not small money, everybody saw it."

On Tuesday, Indonesia's Vice President Jusuf Kalla said

if Australia is paying people smugglers it would amount to "bribery." He said the Indonesian government is seeking clarification from Canberra.

Australia's boat stance has reduced the numbers of migrants attempting to reach its shores by sea and is popular with the Australian public, giving the conservative ruling party a rare policy triumph.

Both of the interviewed men spoke Indonesian with varying fluency. Migrants often spend several years in Malaysia or Indonesia, which have related languages, before attempting to reach Australia.

N. Korea says it has been hit by worst drought in 100 years

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

—North Korea says it has been hit by its worst drought in a century, resulting in extensive damage to agriculture during its main planting season.

The official Korean Central News Agency said the drought has caused about 30 percent of its rice paddies to dry up. Young rice plants normally need to be partially submerged in water during the early summer.

"Recently in our country, there has been a severe drought with sudden extremely high temperatures and nearly no rain," Ri Yong Nam, a senior North Korean weather official,

told The Associated Press on Wednesday. "Now the drought is causing a water shortage and great damage to agriculture, and we foresee this drought will continue for a while."

He said temperatures in May were 5-7 degrees Celsius (9-12 degrees Fahrenheit) higher than normal.

Both North and South Korea have had unusually dry weather this year.

South Korea's Unification Ministry said precipitation in North Korea was abnormally low in May, and food production could decline significantly if the shortage continues. How-

ever, a ministry official said he couldn't confirm North Korea's claim that it was experiencing its worst drought in a century.

Jane Howard, a spokeswoman for the World Food Program in Rome, said North Korea has been experiencing water shortages since late last year because of low rain and snowfall.

"The lack of water now could seriously affect the main crop season later this year," she said.

The main crop season is planted in June-July and normally accounts for 90 percent of total food production, she said in an email.

"We are very concerned that if

there is poor crop production this year, there will be a significant increase in malnutrition especially among children," she said.

KCNA said South Hwanghae province was one of North Korea's worst-hit areas.

Farmers at Gangan Cooperative Farm in the province said they have been unable to grow rice seedlings.

"This is the first drought damage in my 20 years of farming experience," Sin Jong Choi, head of a work team at the farm, told AP. He said the seedlings dried out, so farmers plowed the fields again and planted corn instead.

in favor of the proposals.

Amnesty accuses Myanmar government of intimidating media

HONG KONG (AP)—The Hong Kong government's controversial Beijing-backed election reforms were defeated Thursday by pro-democracy lawmakers. After a lengthy debate, 28 lawmakers voted against the proposals, which sparked huge street protests in the southern Chinese city last year. Eight others voted in favor. However, in a confusing scene moments before the vote took place, most of the lawmakers from pro-establishment parties walked out of the legislature chamber and failed to cast any votes. They later blamed it on miscommunication, explaining that they were waiting for a fellow lawmaker who was ill to return to the chamber and had asked for a 15 minute break. The government needed at least 47 of the 70 lawmakers to vote

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's government is using threats, harassment and imprisonment to intimidate the media ahead of national elections later this year, Amnesty International said Wednesday.

The London-based human rights group said efforts to restrict freedom of expression have intensified over the past year, with at least 10 members of the media currently languishing in prison, all of them jailed in the last 12 months. Such actions belie claims of liberalization since the country started a democratic transition in 2011 from a military regime to an elected civilian government that vowed democratic reforms, the group said in a 22-page report.

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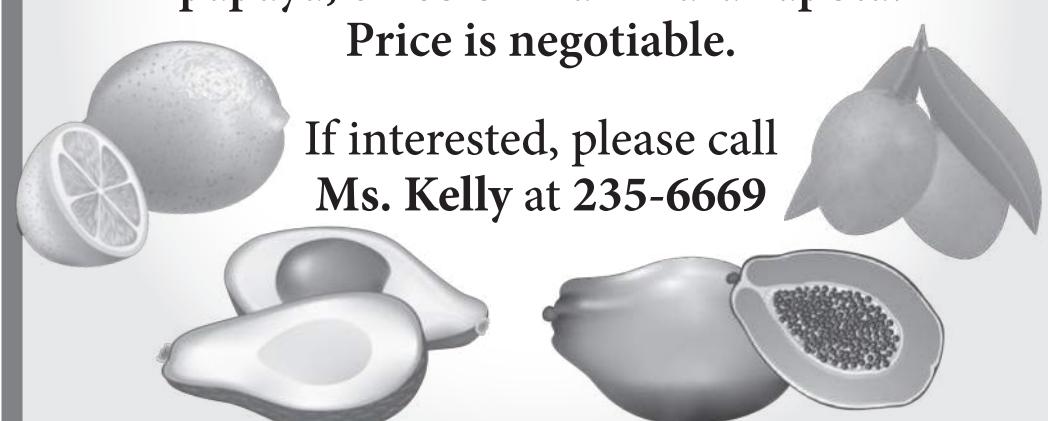
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Ms. Kelly at 235-6669

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Ms. Kelly at 235-6669



World

Syrian rebels advance near Golan; Damascus shelling kills 33

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian rebels launched a wide-ranging offensive against government positions near the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights on Wednesday, after shelling in and around Damascus killed at least 33 people, activists said.

The rebels of the Southern Front alliance and the so-called Haramoun Army targeted several areas in the Golan, including the towns and villages of Quneitra, Khan Arnabeh, Baath, Jiba and the base of Brigade 90, the main government force in the region, said opposition activist Jamal al-Jolani, who is based in southern Syria.

“The fighting now is inside the city of Quneitra,” al-Jolani said via Skype. He said the Haramoun Army—which includes al-Qaida’s Syrian affiliate and the ultraconservative Ahrar al-Sham—shelled the area while Southern Front fighters advanced on the ground.

Insurgents have been on the offensive in southern Syria for the past three months, capturing military bases, villages and a border crossing point with

Jordan.

Maj. Issam el Rayyes, a spokesman for the Southern Front, said the aim of the offensive “is to liberate remaining regime targets in Quneitra.” He added that they aim to link southern Syria with rebel-held neighborhoods in the suburbs of Assad’s seat of power in the capital, Damascus.

“This is a wide battle, not a simple one,” he said, adding that in addition to the towns and village in Quneitra, the rebels are fighting to control a series of strategic hills in the southern region.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the fighting Wednesday killed a soldier and one insurgent, after six rebels were killed the day before.

Explosions from the fighting could be seen from the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights several miles (kilometers) away. A Syrian government helicopter could be heard dropping bombs on rebel targets as tanks, believed to belong to the rebels, fired back. An Israeli warplane

flew along the frontier as a precautionary move.

Just before noon, warning sirens sounded in the Israeli-occupied Golan, near the Quneitra border crossing. Shelling and gunfire from Syria’s civil war occasionally has strayed across the frontier, but there were no immediate reports of any spill-over Wednesday. The Golan is a popular destination for tourists, some of whom stopped to watch the fighting in the distance.

Syria’s state-run SANA news agency meanwhile said two shells struck Arnous Park in Damascus late Tuesday, killing nine people and wounding 13 as shoppers were out ahead of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which begins Thursday.

Government forces earlier fired Iranian-made “elephant”



AP Israeli soldiers drive armored military vehicles during training exercises in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, near the border with Syria, Wednesday, June 17, 2015.

Secret police detentions of activists on the rise in Egypt

CAIRO (AP)—The knock on the door came just before midnight, a group of plainclothes police demanding that 29-year-old Fatma el-Sayed, an activist with one of Egypt’s secular opposition groups, come with them. Her father pleaded to accompany her, but they took her away, alone.

For the next four days, el-Sayed was kept in a cell in the security agency headquarters in her home town of Alexandria—off official records, essentially disappeared into Egypt’s labyrinth of detention facilities. She was interrogated without a lawyer and denied the injections she needed after

recent surgery.

“They tried to extract information from me,” she said—about fellow activists in the opposition group April 6, about the group’s call for a protest against the high cost of living, about any coordination with the Muslim Brotherhood.

“I gave them nothing,” she said.

Egyptian security agencies are increasingly detaining activists and students in secret, snatching them from homes or the street and holding them without official record of their arrest, as their families scramble to find them, activists and lawyers say.

WORLD BRIEFS

Greece, creditors dig in their heels on eve of meeting

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Greece and its creditors publicly blamed one another for an impasse in bailout talks Wednesday, on the eve of a eurozone finance ministers’ meeting billed as key to their outcome. Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras lashed at rescue lenders for demanding pension cuts, and got support from thousands of Greeks who hit the streets in Athens to protest against any further austerity measures.

“If Europe insists in this incomprehensible option—if its political leadership insists—then they must bear the cost of developments that will not be beneficial for anyone in Europe,” he said after meeting in Athens with Austrian Chancellor Werner Faymann. Greek Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis was defiant ahead of Thursday’s meeting of finance chiefs from the eurozone. Asked during a visit to Paris on Wednesday whether the meeting could produce an agreement, Varoufakis said, “I do not believe so,” and criticized the group for not making enough “preparations” to solve Greece’s “incapacitating debt crisis.”

France: Top suspect in 1982 attack on Paris arrested

PARIS (AP)—A man considered the “supervisor” of an attack nearly 33 years ago on a deli in the heart of Paris’ Jewish quarter has been arrested in Jordan, the Paris prosecutor’s office announced on Wednesday. Palestinians throwing grenades burst into the Jo Goldenberg deli on Aug. 9, 1982 and sprayed machine-gun fire. Six people, including two Americans, were killed, and 22 injured in the attack on the

rue des Rosiers. Spokeswoman Agnes Thibault-Lecuire said that Souhaier Mouhamad Hassan Khalil Al-Abbassi, the alleged “chief” and “supervisor” of the attack, was arrested on June 1. She said France is requesting his extradition, but it is unclear how long the process of bringing the suspect to France would take.

Runaway tiger kills man in Tbilisi after flood damages zoo

TBILISI, Georgia (AP)—A tiger that broke loose after severe flooding at the Tbilisi Zoo mauled a man to death in the Georgian capital before being shot by police Wednesday, a day after officials said all the zoo’s tigers had died. Zoo Director Zurab Gurielidze acknowledged he was to blame for releasing faulty information and said new counts indicated a tiger cub and a hyena could still be on the loose. The city has remained on edge, with runaway predators reportedly seen by some residents.

The Interior Ministry in the former Soviet republic said the tiger was hiding at an abandoned factory that had been turned into a construction market when he attacked the man Wednesday. The victim, who worked at the market, later died of his wounds at a hospital. “We entered the depot and, suddenly, a white tiger rushed out of an adjacent room and attacked one of the workers, jumping at his throat and mauling him,” colleague Alexander Shavbulashvili told The Associated Press. “We broke the window of another room to flee, and the sound of breaking glass must have scared it and it ran away.” Police commandos rushed to the site and killed the tiger.

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PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE TRACTOR MOWER TO ROTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, ROTA

INVITATION FOR BID CPA-IFB-006-15

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting bids for the procurement and delivery of one Tractor Mower for the Benjamin T. Manglona, Rota International Airport.

The Bid Package is available beginning May 22nd, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package: “Bid: Tractor/Mower for the Rota International Airport-CPA-IFB-006-15. CONFIDENTIAL”

One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be received at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor-Arrivals Building, Saipan International Airport, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, no later than 2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, Friday, June 26, 2015. Bids will be opened at 3:00 P.M., June 26, 2015 at the CPA Conference Room, 2nd Floor – Departures Building.

Questions and/or clarifications regarding this IFB, the Tractor Mower and its Specifications shall be in writing and emailed to atudela@cpa.gov.mp (Alex Tudela/Procurement Officer) no later than June 22, 2015. Any question or clarification will not be entertained after June 22, 2015. Answers to questions and/or clarifications will be provided to each vendor or individual receiving a bid package.

Bids received after the above closing date and time of this Invitation for Bid will not be accepted and will be returned unopened. CPA reserves the right to reject any and all bids if in its opinion to do so is in CPA’s best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT INTERIOR PLANTS SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-004-15

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals from interested plant nurseries, for the supply, service and maintenance of Interior (indoor) Plants at the Saipan International Airport on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails providing interior plants for a period of two (2) years as detailed in the Scope of Work. The proposal package which includes the scope of work and evaluation factors will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on June 8, 2015. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: “Proposal for the Saipan International Airport Interior Plant Service and Maintenance. One (1) original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than 2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, June 24, 2015, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

Questions pertaining to this RFP must be in writing and address to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority either by facsimile at 234-5962 or email: cpa.mqlizama@pticom.com, no later than June 19, 2015. Response will be issued by formal written addenda and afforded to all proposers who have picked up the proposal package.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request For Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA

Further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA’s best interest.

CPA assumes no responsibilities in any act of omission on the part of offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of offeror’s preparation of the proposal or supply under the contract.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Executive Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW-15-IFB-004


Supply, Delivery and Installation of Pathway Lightings, Saipan

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids from qualified General or Electrical Contractors for the Supply, Delivery and Installation of Pathway Lightings, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after June 19, 2015 at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to One Hundred Dollars (US\$100.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

There will be a **Mandatory Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **July 08, 2015**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan. A mandatory site visit will follow immediately after the pre-bid conference with the contracting office. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **July 17, 2015** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 p.m. to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Acting Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid. The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addendum, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW-15-IFB-004". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **July 21, 2015**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **July 21, 2015**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-5151, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **July 21, 2015** and must be received no later than **July 30, 2015**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, **August 03, 2015**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 1:30 p.m. local time, on **July 21, 2015**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, or certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

- 1) Cash
- 2) US Gov't Securities
- 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred Dollars (US\$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

MARIAN ALDAN-PIERCE
MVA Board Chair

HERMAN S. SABLAM
Director of Procurement & Supply


Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-15-017

WATERLINE REPAIRS, SAIPAN, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced entities to provide construction repair services for identified waterline leaks in the CUC water system. This Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity contract will be awarded to multiple Contractors. The work will consist of excavation and leak repairs on various types of waterlines and appurtenances. Materials for leak repairs are to be provided by CUC. Payment is only for the items completely installed and accepted by CUC. The duration of the contract is one year (365 calendar days) from date of award with an option to extend for an additional year, contingent upon funding and if exercised by CUC.

This project is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and CUC & the US Department of Interior -Bureau of Reclamation. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from the above mentioned funding agencies.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on June 23, 2015 at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Training Room, 3rd Floor, Room 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

Prospective proponents for this RFP must register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division, by 3:00 p.m. (ChST) on June 26, 2015 in order to be considered.

One (1) Original Hard Copy must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC RFP-15-017, Waterline Repairs, Saipan, CNMI" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on July 14, 2015**. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address cucprocurement@cucgov.org or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission.

The deadline for proposal submittals is July 14, 2015, although this date may be subject to change. Changes to the proposal schedule will be distributed to all registered proponents by the CUC Procurement and Supply office.

A **Proposal Guarantee** of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A **Payment Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent and a **Performance Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Proponents are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proponents due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of proponents' preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Proponents shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proponents.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be considered only from registered proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 30, 2015** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Yvonne Cabrera, CUC Engineer, Water/Wastewater Division via email yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAM
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 • Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: 235-5131


WATER QUALITY REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

Your 2014 CUC Annual Water Quality Report is now available on-line!

Please go to <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/CCR-2014.pdf> to view what contaminants were detected in your water in 2014 and to learn more about your drinking water. This report contains important information about the source and quality of your drinking water.

If you need the report translated, wish to speak with someone about the report, or would like a paper copy delivered or emailed to you, please call CUC at (670) 664-4282.

AYOOR REPOD

Yóómw 2014 CUC Annual Water Quality Report nge a llo on-line!

Uló reel <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/CCR-2014.pdf> bwe weri meta mil ngaw kka re schungi llól yóómw schaal llól 2014 me ubwe bawl ghi mataf reel úlúmómw schaal. Amataffal kkal nge eghi auscheya reel yáyáál me ghatchúl yóómw schaal.

Faingi CUC reel (670) 664-4282 ngare u tipeli rebwe seleti ngalúgh amataff kkal, kkapas ngali eschay, me ngare u mwuscel eew kkopiyal rebwe bwughí lló reemw me ngare afanga ngálugh.

GUMUAHA RIPOT PÅ'GU

I iyom-mu 2014 CUC Annual na Ripot Kuálidåt Hånum esta på'gu gumuaha gi on-line!

Put fabot hánão para i <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/CCR-2014.pdf> para u ma'atan hâfa na contaminants manmasodda' gi halum hanom-mu gi 2014 yan para un tung'u más put i hanum magimin. Esti na ripot ha sasahguan siha manimpottånti na imfotmasion put i source yan kuálidåt i hanum magimin.

Yanggin un nisisita i ripot matranslåda, ya malagu' hâo kumuentusi hâyi put i ripot pat malagu' hâo kopian påppit u ma'entrega pat mana'hánão guatu para hâgu, put fabot ågang i CUC gi (670) 664-4282.


Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-15-018

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF POWER DISTRIBUTION ANNUAL MATERIALS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified entities for the Supply and Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials, based on bids for "Commodity Groups".

Prospective Bidders must register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$50.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) Original Hard Copy must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-15-018, Supply & Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials, Saipan, CNMI" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on July 16, 2015**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. *A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address cucprocurement@cucgov.org or alternately include a CD with the copy of the submission.*

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bid. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidder. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract(s) is contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) and the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Board of Director's (BOD) approval. The contract(s) will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 29, 2015** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS (DPL)
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI) GOVERNMENT**

RFP15 – RED002

**PUBLISHED DATE(S): June 5, June 12, and June 19, 2015
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: July 17, 2015**

**“LONG-TERM LEASE FOR PUBLIC LAND
IN SONGSONG, ROTA”**

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, through the Department of Public Lands (DPL), are soliciting sealed proposals from interested and qualified companies or individuals for the purpose of leasing and commercially developing public lands as indicated below:

1. Lot Number 014 R 05, containing an area of approximately 22,200 square meters, more or less, in Songsong, Rota, as is (former Pau Pau Hotel); and
2. Lot Number 014 R 06, containing an area of approximately 21,068 square meters, more or less, in Songsong, Rota, as is.

The RFP instruction and information package (RFP Packet) is available at the Department of Public Lands office, located on the 2nd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, during the hours of 7:30am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday, except holidays. A non-refundable fee of **Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (US \$3,500.00)** is required to receive an RFP Packet. Payment must be made by certified or cashier's check payable to: **Department of Public Lands**.

Interested proposers from overseas may request for RFP Packet by mail. The request must be received by DPL no later than June 26, 2015, reference **“RFP15- RED002 LONG-TERM LEASE FOR PUBLIC LAND IN SONGSONG, ROTA”**, and include a certified or cashier's check payable to: **Department of Public Lands** for the amount of US\$3,500.00. Requests and payment should be sent to the address shown below.

The RFP packet issued to proposers will be numbered for identification and shall not be copied for distribution to other interested parties.

Questions regarding the Request for Proposals must be received no later than 4:30 pm on Friday, June 26, 2015 ChST and must be submitted in writing via mail, email or facsimile to Mr. Pedro A. Tenorio, Secretary, Department of Public Lands at the following address:

Department of Public Lands
P.O. Box 500380
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone number(s): (670) 234-3751/52/53
Facsimile number: (670) 234-3755
Email: pete.tenorio@dpl.gov.mp

Response to questions shall be shared with all prospective proposers.

Department of Public Lands reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal, if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interest of public land beneficiaries. All proposals shall become the sole property of the Department of Public Lands.

/s/ PEDRO A. TENORIO
Secretary, Department of Public Lands

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Management Accountant (2)

College degree with accounting or financial management major and 5 years of progressive financial management experience. Minimum of 3 years experience in analyzing, interpreting and providing sound financial information. Must be adept in monthly financial statement preparation and consolidation, cash flow forecasting, budgeting, and providing financial projections. Must have excellent communication, organizational and self-management skills. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) system and Microsoft Excel, Power Point and Project. CPA not required.

Building Cleaner (4)

High School Diploma or equivalent. Must have at least 3 years working experience. Dependable attendance, hard working and follows directions well. Important qualities: detailed oriented, responsible. Interpersonal skills. Must get along well with people they provide services for and must be polite and friendly. Physical stamina. Must be able to spend many hours on their feet scrubbing, bending, stooping, and stretching and must be able to lift or move up to 50 pounds. Must be able to work flexible hours and days.

Accountant (3)

Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 3 years work related experience in financial management and/or payroll and general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivables and payable management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system and MS Excel, Word and Power Point software. Must be able to work under time pressure and must work flexible hours. CPA not required.

Business Development Manager

Graduate of a 4-year degree course with an Accounting or Financial Management major and at least 5 years of progressive financial and business management experience. Minimum of 3 years general management experience preferably in a financing or banking institution. Excellent communication and strong interpersonal skills. Must be proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) software and Microsoft software. Should possess a solid track record of accomplishing business objectives.

Accounting Manager

College degree with financial management major and 5 years of progressive financial management experience. Minimum of 3 years experience in directing the preparation of financial reports and implementing cash management activities. Excellent communication and strong interpersonal skills to manage people. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) system and Microsoft software.

Accounting Supervisor

A Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with a focus in accounting and/or finance. 2-3 years of progressive responsibility supervising a minimum of 3 associates. CPA/CPA candidate a plus. Audit experience also preferred. Must have knowledge with the use of SAP R3 FICO System and SAP Fixed Asset Module. Microsoft Office proficiency with advanced knowledge of Excel is a must.

Administrative Assistant (3)

Associate's Degree with 2 years experience of administrative and clerical procedures and systems such as word processing, managing files and records. Must be proficient in typing and good at written and oral communication. Must be able to consistently demonstrate good customer service and interpersonal skills at work. Must be available to work on weekends, holidays and weeknights. Proficient in MS Office including Word, Excel and Outlook.

Messenger (2)

High school graduate. Must be able to keep track of multiple documents and itemize. Dependable attendance, hard working and follows directions well. Good oral and written communication skills and good driving skills are required. Must provide and maintain own vehicle for work and have a valid driver's license. Must be available to work early mornings, late nights and weekends.

Administrative Assistant for Sports Facilities (3)

High school diploma or GED certificate plus 2 years experience working in sports organization or sports facilities. Training & coaching experience preferred but not required. Must be proficient in typing with good written and oral communication skills. Proficient in MS Office including Microsoft Word, Excel and Outlook. Can work flexible hours and available on weekends, holidays and weeknights.

Air conditioning & Refrigeration Mechanic

Associate's Degree or Vocational School graduate. Must have at least 2 years experience installing, servicing, and repairing air conditioning and refrigeration systems in residences and commercial establishments. Must have his/her own reliable transportation and must be able to work flexible hours.

HR & Administrative Assistant

Associate's Degree. Must have knowledge of principles and procedures for personnel recruitment, selection, benefits and personnel information systems. Knowledge of business and management principles involved in strategic planning, resource allocation, human resources modeling, leadership technique, production methods, and coordination of people and resources. Ability to work in confidential related matters, self-directed and be able to multi-task in a fast paced environment. With a minimum of 2 years work experience in human resource, administrative and accounting. Proficient in MS Office including Word, Excel and Outlook.

Vice President

Graduate of 4-year degree course with a minimum of 8 years of professional progressive management experience and at least 4 years of general management experience in property management or hotel management, and tourism & cargo business experience for Korean Market. Proficient in English & Korean (reading, writing, speaking). Knowledge of lease negotiations plus financial and quality management is required. Must have a solid track record in accomplishing business objectives.

Electrician

High school diploma or GED certificate. Must have at least 2 years experience installing, maintaining, and/or repairing electrical wiring, equipment, and fixtures. Must have knowledge of electrical codes, intercom and electrical control systems. Must be able to work flexible hours.

General Maintenance Worker (10)

High school diploma or equivalent with at least 3 years experience especially in equipment and appliance repair. Must have some basic knowledge and troubleshooting experience in plumbing and electrical systems, masonry, carpentry, and other cleaning and general maintenance work inside and outside facilities. Must be able to lift and move heavy supplies and objects. Must be willing to work flexible hours.

Network Administration Manager

Associate's degree in any computer science, information engineering or other computer technology related areas. Must have at least 5 years of sound experience in local and wide area networks management and administration including system configuration, setup, troubleshooting, planning, designing, implementation, and user support. Must have knowledge in MS Exchange Email Server.

Engineering Manager

Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering with at least 5 years of progressive management experience. Ability to successfully develop, implement and manage projects including the ability to provide effective leadership is a must. Adeptness in cost estimation and knowledge of quality control and federal regulations in environmental and occupational safety hazards is required. The duties of this job require constant outside travel and exposure to outside weather conditions. Must be able to provide his/her own transportation and must have a valid driver's license.

Sales Officer

Associate's Degree in Sales or Marketing and at least 3 years work related experience are required. Must have his/her own reliable transportation. Must be able to meet monthly sales targets and have extensive contacts in various industries. Must be able to prepare management and sales reports and is proficient in various MS office software operations. Can work flexible hours. Must be available to work on weekends, holidays and weeknights.

Legal Secretary (2)

Associates degree and at least 2 years work related experience in a legal office. Proficient in case and document management software, Microsoft Office Word, Excel, Power Point and Outlook. Familiar in preparation and filing of pleadings and legal documents.

Corporate Paralegal Officer

Bachelor's degree in paralegal studies or in any related field. Minimum of 3 years experience providing sound legal research, reliable litigation support and preparation of legal documents, pleadings and contracts. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills. Familiarity with Lexis - Nexis and Pacer - ECF is required.

IT Manager

College degree with a major in computer science, computer technology or information engineering or other related areas is required. At least 5 years of progressive management experience and 8 years of sound and all-around IT technical experience is required. Must have well-developed written/oral and management skills and with a strong background in all IT hardware, software and communication business requirements.

Computer Technician

Associate's degree in any computer science, information technology or other related areas. Must have at least 3 years of sound experience in electronics and communication systems with emphasis on the repair of computer equipment and installation of telephone cables/systems. Must be knowledgeable in different software applications and in hardware troubleshooting. Must be able to work flexible hours.

Graphic Designer

Associate's degree in Fine Arts, Graphic Design or other related areas. Minimum of 3 years work experience in creating graphics to meet specific commercial or promotional needs. Proficiency in Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator and Adobe InDesign is a must. Strong organizational and self-management skills, including the ability to multi-task and prioritize are required. Can work flexible hours, depending on demand.

Programmer Analyst (2)

Associate's degree in computer science or computer programming and at least 3 years of work-related experience in a professional Microsoft Windows environment. Strong practical knowledge in relational databases management particularly in midrange RDMS environment such as SQL server. Knowledge in windows-based and web-based programming is a must.

A pre-employment drug testing is required.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan or e-mail it to lt_recruitment@tanholdings.com. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Wednesday, July 01, 2015.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Off The Wall

3 postal workers accused of rigging Operation Santa program

NEW YORK (AP)—Three postal workers played the Grinch and stole laptop computers, a toy train, boots and other gifts destined for underprivileged children by rigging the Operation Santa program where they worked, authorities said.

In a part of Manhattan where the movie "Miracle on 34th Street" was inspired, the postal workers helped themselves to headphones, clothing and other goods, authorities said in court papers unsealed Wednesday as all three were arrested.

Cashing in on the generosity of Secret Santas, the trio pulled off a lucrative plot during the 2013 holiday season as they worked in the Operation Santa headquarters in the huge James A. Farley Post Office, across from Madison Square Garden, court papers said.

Terry Jackson, a postal worker until January 2014, was

identified as the ringleader by a prosecutor during a brief appearance before a magistrate judge in federal court.

The others, current postal workers, were identified as Mahogany Strickland and Nickyevies Saintalbord. Lawyers for all three declined comment as their clients were released, two of them on \$50,000 bail.

Federal charges included conspiracy and mail fraud.

In the complaint, U.S. Postal Service agent Jamie Trelles said the three postal workers carried out their scheme between November 2013 and January 2014.

The complaint said they wrote fake letters to fraudulently obtain electronics, clothing and other items and even replaced underprivileged kids' addresses with their own addresses for gifts to be delivered.

Secret Santas ultimately provided gifts for fewer than half

of the 7,000 letters processed by postal employees from among more than 300,000 letters written to Santa by children across the country hoping to receive gifts for the holidays, the court papers said.

Trelles wrote that Jackson confessed during a February interview that he wrote four to five letters pretending to be a child and had two other participants in the scheme make 20 copies of each letter.

As a result, the agent said, Jackson received a printer, two laptop computers, two tablet computers, clothing, gift cards and more.

Trelles said Jackson also confessed that he entered the database used to store children's addresses and placed his address on the shipping line for Operation Santa packages about 50 times, causing packages intended for children to be shipped to him.

Secret Santas ultimately provided gifts for fewer than half

of the 7,000 letters processed by postal employees from among more than 300,000 letters written to Santa by children across the country hoping to receive gifts for the holidays, the court papers said.

Authorities say they were removed because they were a distraction for drivers. Some pulled over to pose with the houses and caused a traffic jam.

Officials estimate 1,000 piglets died in last week's crash and some could still be on the loose.

One house was made from straw, another was made of sticks

and the last was made of bricks.

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Life & Style

AP Interview: Michael Douglas in Israel for \$1 million prize

JERUSALEM (AP)—When actor Michael Douglas learned that he had been chosen to receive the “Jewish Nobel Prize,” he pointed out a small problem: Under strict religious law, the Oscar-winning actor isn’t Jewish.

Douglas, who only recently has embraced his Jewish roots, is vowing to use the \$1 million Genesis Prize to build bridges between Israel and increasingly assimilated Jewish communities around the world.

“Abraham’s tent had its flaps open and so hopefully since approximately half of the Jewish population in the world is outside of Israel, we can find ways to better understand each other and to grow together,” Douglas told The Associated Press in an interview.

Douglas, accompanied by his wife, actress Catherine Zeta-Jones, and their two children, is in Israel this week to accept the Genesis Prize. Jay Leno will host the high-powered event, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is scheduled to present the award.

Douglas, 70, wearing a light beige suit and purple tie, appeared relaxed and energetic. He said he remains cancer free after being diagnosed with oral cancer in 2010, and that his marriage to Zeta-Jones is going strong after hitting a rough patch two years ago.

“Catherine is wonderful,” he said. “Our kids are here, and we’re having a fantastic time. Life is good.”

Douglas, known for a career of macho and sometimes morally ambiguous roles, won the



people with a Jewish mother are considered Jewish.

Douglas said he raised this issue when the Genesis Prize Foundation approached him about its award. But he said the group was interested in him because he represented so many other people in similar positions. In its announcement, it praised Douglas’ family for its “inclusive approach for Jews of diverse backgrounds.”

Douglas will have his work cut out for him. The Reform and Conservative movements, which are dominant among U.S. Jewry, have struggled for recognition in Israel, providing an occasional source of tension between Israel and American Jews.

Douglas said he realized his selection could raise eyebrows

in some quarters of Israel.

“I don’t expect dramatic changes, certainly among the Orthodox and the ultra-Orthodox,” he said. But he said he hoped that Israelis would realize that Jews are a “very very small minority” in the rest of the world and everyone must get along. He said he plans on using his prize money to support a number of Jewish organizations that promote inclusiveness, including the Jewish college organization Hillel.

Douglas comes at a difficult time for Israel and the Jewish people. Anti-Semitism is on the rise in Europe, and Israel has been confronting a burgeoning boycott movement by pro-Palestinian activists who, among other things, have pressured entertainers not to visit Israel.

E3 BUZZ: Virtual reality for the nearsighted



This photo provided by Bethesda Softworks shows a screenshot of a scene for the video game, “Fallout 4.”

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Musings from the floor on the second day of the annual Electronic Entertainment Expo’s three-day run at the Los Angeles Convention Center:

I felt a little dizzy after playing one 3D shooting game on the Morpheus. I didn’t experience any such wooziness with the games on Oculus.

“Motion sickness is an issue,” Iribe says. “But the Oculus Rift won’t ship until it’s comfortable for sensitive people.”

The existence of Bethesda Softworks’ “Fallout 4” didn’t come as much of a surprise. After the huge success of 2008’s “Fallout 3,” everyone assumed a sequel was inevitable.

What did floor the crowd at E3 was the announcement that “Fallout 4” was coming in November—severely truncating the multiyear cycle of announcement-hype-release that typically accompanies a potential blockbuster.

Square Enix pulled a similar fast one with its reveal of a new “Hitman” game for consoles and PC. That one will be out in December.

In either case, it’s the video-game equivalent of Beyoncé dropping an entire album on iTunes without any advance word. Will the day come when we first hear about a big game and can download it the same day? Probably. Meanwhile, Bethesda did announce a companion iPhone app, “Fallout Shelter,” that fans could download and play hours later.

Second Year Death Anniversary

In Memory of a Life so beautifully lived,
a Heart so deeply loved

**†Joanne Christine
Conrad Jones-Iguel**
Lovingly known as “Jo”

Please join us in prayer as we remember our beloved †Jo on
the Second Anniversary of her life in Heaven.

Daily Mass offering will be from June 21 - 29, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.
at the Bithen Delos Remedios Church in Tanapag.

On Tuesday, June 23rd and Thursday, June 25th Mass will be
offered at San Roque Church at 6:00 p.m.

On Sunday, June 21st and 28th Mass will be offered at 8:00 a.m.
at the Bithen Delos Remedios Church in Tanapag.

On the final day, June 29th, 2015 (Monday), we invite
family and friends to join us for dinner
at the Tanapag Social Hall after mass.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Kinisou Chapur, Si Yu’s Ma’ase,
Thank You

The Family

Trump announcement a boon to late-night comics

NEW YORK (AP)—He doesn't need the money, but if Donald Trump's presidential campaign falters, late-night comics would surely pass the hat to keep it going.

An animated Jon Stewart looked like he was second-guessing his decision to step away from "The Daily Show" in the wake of Trump's declaration Tuesday. Stephen Colbert's "Late Show" hasn't started yet,

but he couldn't resist releasing a video. Seth Meyers pumped his fist in glee. And Larry Wilmore regarded Trump's announcement as a literal gift from the comedy gods.

"I've got a show and Trump's running for president," said Wilmore, of Comedy Central's "Nightly Show." "Good news for me, horrible news for our writers. Because all of the jokes are officially

writing themselves."

He ran a clip reel of highlights from Trump's speech, while contentedly munching on a steak dinner.

Stewart acted like a child waiting for dessert as he ran through video of campaign announcements by Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush. Finally, he showed a clip of Trump riding an escalator down to where he made his presiden-



into one."

NBC's Meyers said that "in a speech cobbled together from forwarded emails from your uncle, he let us know what he thought that America needed."

Colbert doesn't begin on CBS until September, but he's been posting occasional comic videos online. His latest video showed him at a podium making an announcement of his own, his hair teased into a bad comber to echo Trump's and speaking the same rough, outer-borough accent.

In his announcement—that he's still coming to CBS—Colbert nailed the rambling, surrealistic quality of Trump's talk, including the unexpected, and seemingly annoying to the candidate, musical interludes. He touched on Trump's emphasis on the Chinese "eating our lunch" in global competition.

"I don't want to eat their lunch," he said. "I've seen their lunch. Does it come with egg rolls? This administration is doing nothing to find out."

He announced his wife was backstage having a drink and, prompted by an audience member, he performed a card trick.

Conan O'Brien on TBS joked that Trump's announcement "traditionally means six more weeks of comedy."

Reports: Williams out as 'Nightly News' anchor

NEW YORK (AP)—Brian Williams won't return as NBC "Nightly News" anchor at the conclusion of his suspension for misrepresenting his role in a news story and following an investigation into other alleged misstatements.

The New York Times and CNN both reported an announcement on Williams' future is expected on Thursday. NBC News officials and Robert Barnett, Williams' representative in negotiations with the network over the past several weeks, would not comment Wednesday on the reports.

Williams and NBC have been discussing an undefined role for him at the network. Lester Holt has subbed for Williams on NBC's evening newscast and is the odds-on favorite to be his permanent replacement.

NBC has been tight-lipped about its negotiations with Williams, who signed a new contract to be the network's chief



In this Nov. 5, 2014 file photo, Brian Williams speaks at the 8th Annual Stand Up For Heroes, presented by New York Comedy Festival and The Bob Woodruff Foundation in New York.

news anchor last fall.

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Close Date: June 24, 2015
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(3) years experience
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Interested applicants, please fax resume to (670) 433-4329 on or before June 24, 2015.

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Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. \$250/month.
2-BR, 1-BTH. \$350-\$550/month. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted.

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(Navy Hill) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view.
\$550/month

LNH Apartments
(Lower Navy Hill)
Small 3BR & 2BTH. Unit approximately 600 sq.ft. EPA Solar Water Heater.
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Hilltop Condominium*
(San Vicente) Unit approximately 1,024sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 2BTH Apt with private balcony & majestic view. \$700/month
Luxury 1BR & 1BTH approximately 600 sq/ft
\$500/month
*Wi-Fi & nighttime security excluded

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(1) Administrative Assistant

- Must have at least 3 years experience.
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(1) Funeral Service Assistant

- Must have a driver's license.
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- Good personality.

All interested applicant must apply in person.

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WORLD INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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Salary Rate: \$6.05 per hour

- At least 2-3 years experience in a Commercial Building Maintenance. Preferably in Carpentry and Masonry.
- Full-time with flexible working hours

Please mail your resume to PMB 654 Box 10000 Saipan, MP 96950 or contact our Office at Tel.: (670) 233-1545 between 2:30PM to 9:00PM.

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Warehouse #3 - Size: 6,000sq/ft
\$0.65 per sq/ft. Negotiable

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Warriors return to Bay Area as NBA champions

The Finals
OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) —

Stephen Curry came off the plane, lifted the Larry O'Brien Trophy as he walked down the mobile staircase and let the gold award shine in the California sun.

For the first time in 40 years, the NBA champions are back in the Bay Area.

With more than 100 team employees in yellow and blue shirts cheering them outside a private terminal, the Golden State Warriors were welcomed home to Oakland on Wednesday. The team spent Tuesday night in Cleveland - though the players didn't really sleep - after beating LeBron James and the Cavaliers 105-97 in the Game 6 clincher.

"We just stuck to who we are, fought through some tough times in the playoffs. At the end of the day, when you're holding the trophy, all the ups and downs are worth it," said Curry, the NBA MVP. "We'll remember this for the rest of our lives."

Players, coaches and team employees soaked in the scene as much as they could.

As two helicopters hovered above the airport, the chartered flight received an escort from a police car and two fire trucks on the runway. Curry was the first player off the plane and was quickly joined by teammates on the staircase.

Warriors employees, shuttled from team headquarters on three buses, cheered and chanted "War-ri-ors!" and the song "We Are the Champions" by Queen. They also pounded inflatable sticks and gave hugs and handshakes to players and coaches, with just about everybody taking photos and videos on their smartphones.

Most of the Warriors' contingent, who were accompanied by their families, wore gray "NBA Champs" shirts. And just about everybody - in-



Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry, center, walks past cheering team employees as he carries the Larry O'Brien championship trophy in front of forward Andre Iguodala, lifting the NBA Finals MVP trophy, after the team landed in Oakland, Calif., Wednesday, June 17, 2015. The Warriors beat the Cleveland Cavaliers to win their first NBA championship since 1975. (AP Photo/Noah Berger)

cluding the pilots - walked off with championship hats.

"Phenomenal. Still on cloud nine. It really hasn't set in yet," Warriors forward Draymond Green said.

Green is the team's only core player not signed for next season. As a restricted free agent, the Warriors would be able to match any offer he receives from another team - and they full intend to do so, even if that means facing the league's luxury tax.

Asked if he expects to be back next season, Green shouted: "Hell yeah I ex-

pect to be back here."

The welcome home capped a busy two-day stretch for the Warriors.

After finishing off the Cavaliers, the team had a dinner at a high-end steakhouse in Cleveland. They stayed up late celebrating with friends and family, and congratulations poured in from all over - including President Barack Obama, who phoned coach Steve Kerr to congratulate the Warriors on winning the title and invite them for a customary White House visit.

The dizzying daze of a champion-

ship celebration left no time for sleep - even on the plane ride home, which Curry called a party for some and a chance to relax for others.

"You're still kind of on an adrenaline rush and excited to win a championship, so guys are taking naps, guys are listening to music, just talking about how fun the journey's been," Curry said. "And now we get to celebrate for real."

About 30 fans waited outside the private terminal's parking lot at Oakland International Airport, with some

players and coaches stopping on their way out for autographs and photos. A championship parade is planned Friday in downtown Oakland, where fans from throughout the Bay Area are expected to cheer on the market's only NBA team.

"This is nice to be back home with the trophy and be able to celebrate with our fans," Curry said. "I can't wait for the parade. It's going to be so much fun. The Bay Area deserves this championship and we're going to have a good time celebrating."

Plenty of changes could come to the NBA, and quickly



OAKLAND (AP) — Stephen Curry and the Golden State Warriors will get their championship rings. LeBron James will try yet again to end Cleveland's epic title drought. And barring a most unlikely change of heart, Kobe Bryant's illustrious NBA career will end.

That's just a smidge of what awaits next season.

So much more is TBA, though hints will soon start coming.

And once again, the NBA offseason won't be NBA down time.

Tim Duncan hasn't said if he'll retire or return to San Antonio, LaMarcus Aldridge and DeAndre Jordan hit the open market, Kevin Love's future is still unclear despite his saying that he'll stay with the Cavaliers, Dwyane Wade might be leaving Miami and Rajon Rondo surely will be moving on from Dallas.

Plus, before free agency officially starts on July 1, an intriguing draft awaits next week with Minnesota holding the No. 1 pick.

"I haven't thought about next season," James said early Wednesday after Golden State topped the Cavs in the NBA Finals clincher. "At all."

He won't be able to say that in a day

or two, tops. It doesn't take long for the league to shift from Finals to frantic, and the NBA could have a very different look about a month from now.

Here's a look at some of the story lines worth watching over the next few weeks:

THE CHAMPS

Every indication is that the Warriors could come back relatively intact to defend their title.

Draymond Green, he who only had a triple-double in the title clincher, will get attention from other teams but the Warriors have the right to match any offers that he takes seriously. And the way Green was sounding in the championship celebration, he's got no plans at this point to seek employment elsewhere.

The Warriors aren't anywhere near being an "old" team yet, might be able to free up some cap space in trades and have an absolute baby-faced assassin and league MVP in Curry.

THE CAVS

James can (and probably will) opt out of his contract. But it would be with different goals in mind than finding a new home; rather, he and his braintrust will try to find creative ways to both maximize money

and the Cavs' potential for winning.

Tristan Thompson's contract talks will be interesting, and it's likely Cleveland will need to give him a max deal or close to it to keep him. So then it's all eyes on Love, who says he wants to stay. But questions exist about Love wanting to play in Los Angeles at some point, and if this is Bryant's swan song then the Lakers would want to load up as much as they can for his final season.

Love's shoulder injury and recovery add another thorn to his future as to whether other teams will take the risk.

Though it seems coach David Blatt will be back, a potentially wild summer awaits in Cleveland.

POWER BROKERS

Imagine these scenarios:

Jordan leaves the Clippers and somehow ends up in Atlanta. Aldridge heads to Dallas and becomes the heir apparent to Dirk Nowitzki as the Mavericks' go-to guy. Rondo goes to the Lakers, joining a rare club alongside the likes of Don Nelson, Rick Fox and Gary Payton to play for both them and the Celtics.

It could all happen.

While the draft will generate plenty of attention, remember that of the 60 guys selected last year only 11 played in this season's playoffs - and of those, only one

(Houston's Clint Capela) made more than 10 appearances in this postseason. And just four rookies finished this season averaging more than 10 points a game.

In short, the draft usually isn't where teams get real good real fast. That can happen in free agency.

Jordan, Aldridge, Wade and Rondo will be in plenty of headlines July 1, assuming Wade opts out of the second year of his Miami deal as many expect. Tyson Chandler will be on the market, alongside quite possibly Brook Lopez and Roy Hibbert. Danny Green might leave San Antonio. Paul Pierce might play one more year, and it's been whispered for months that the Los Angeles-area native could reunite with Doc Rivers and try to push the Clippers toward a title.

POTENTIAL MOVERS AND SHAKERS THIS SUMMER

Boston: Players around the league are enthralled with coach Brad Stevens, and the Celtics have dollars to spend.

Chicago: The Jimmy Butler situation will be interesting. If the Bulls lose him, they will have to make a huge reactive move.

Detroit: Stan Van Gundy made one of the boldest moves of the year when he

waived Josh Smith. He'll have the Pistons closer to the playoffs in his second season running the ship in Auburn Hills.

Miami: Pat Riley and Micky Arison won't sit idle. Watching these playoffs hurt.

Milwaukee: Another team growing in a rapidly improving Eastern Conference. Young and with financial flexibility.

New Orleans: New coach in Alvin Gentry, best young big man in the game in Anthony Davis. It could be his league soon.

San Antonio: Don't sleep on the Spurs. They're not done. There are no shortage of players who would want to play for Gregg Popovich and a gold-standard franchise.

Utah: One of the best young cores in the NBA, a certain team on the rise out West, and Quin Snyder may be a coaching star in the making.

UP NEXT

June 25: NBA draft. Minnesota, the Lakers, Philadelphia, New York and Orlando hold the first five picks; Boston has four picks in all.

July 1: Free agency begins. Teams and players can start agreeing to deals, but nothing can be signed.

July 9: New contracts can be signed and become official. With that, the reshaping of the NBA would be underway.

A-Rod up to 2,997 hits as Yankees win over Marlins

 **NEW YORK**
(AP)—Alex Rodriguez singled twice to raise his career hits total to 2,997, Michael Pineda carried a no-hit bid into the seventh inning before allowing Christian Yelich's home run, and the New York Yankees beat the Miami Marlins 2-1 Wednesday night.

On a night when Yankees manager Joe Girardi was spared having to decide whether to lift Pineda with a high pitch count and New York benefited from an overturned call at home plate that prevented the tying run in the eighth inning, A-Rod closed in on becoming the 29th player to reach the 3,000 mark.

Rodriguez lined an RBI single to center in the first inning, singled softly to center in the fifth, walked twice to reach in all four plate appearances and also was thrown out at home plate. With New York starting an eight-game homestand, he has a good chance to get No. 3,000 at home.

Twins 3, Cardinals 1

In Minneapolis, Tommy Milone gave up one run in seven innings and the Minnesota Twins squeaked out a victory over St. Louis.

Milone (3-1) gave up five hits and struck out five and Eduardo Nunez had two hits and two RBI to help the reeling Twins, who had lost seven of their pre-



AP
New York Yankees designated hitter Alex Rodriguez (13) swings on a single during the fifth inning of a baseball game against the Miami Marlins at Yankee Stadium in New York, Wednesday, June 17, 2015.

Royals 10, Brewers 2

In Kansas City, Joe Blanton picked up his first victory in nearly two years with five solid innings and Alcides Escobar equaled his career high with four RBI as Kansas City pounded Milwaukee.

Cubs 17, Indians 0

In Cleveland, Kris Bryant had a grand slam and Kyle Schwarber was 4 for 5, including his first major league hit and RBI, and Chicago hit four home runs to rout Cleveland.

Rays 5, Nationals 0

In Washington, Steven Souza Jr. hit his 13th home run of the season and Curt Casali blasted the first of his career to help Tampa Bay beat Washington.

Pirates 3, White Sox 2

In Chicago, Jeff Locke allowed just two runs in six innings, Jung Ho Kang hit a two-run home run and Pittsburgh beat struggling Chicago for its seventh straight win.

Braves 5, Red Sox 2

In Atlanta, Nick Markakis singled in the go-ahead run in the seventh inning, Pedro Ciriaco added a pair of RBI singles and Atlanta beat struggling Boston.

Orioles 6, Phillies 4

In Philadelphia, Chris Parmelee homered for the third time in two games and Travis Snider also went deep as Baltimore handed Philadelphia its ninth straight defeat.

SIDE BAR

Lawyer says Cards execs not behind Astros hacking

ST. LOUIS (AP)—High-level executives of the St. Louis Cardinals were not involved in the hacking of the Houston Astros' player personnel database, an attorney hired by the team said Wednesday, citing an internal review.

The Cardinals said they retained the Dowd Bennett firm for a review several months before this week's disclosure that the FBI is investigating whether the team hacked into the Astros' computer system that is used to track players and prospects.

"With what we have done so far, I am 100 percent confident that this does not touch upper management and does not involve people like John Mozeliak and Bill DeWitt," Jim Martin, an attorney for the firm, told The Associated Press. Mozeliak is the Cardinals' general manager and DeWitt is the team chairman.

Martin said he was retained in February.

Mozeliak said in Minnesota that he and DeWitt were not aware of any information that the team used. The Cardinals have been aware of the investigation for "several months," the GM added.

"When you look at how you make decisions and why you

make decisions, everybody does it differently," Mozeliak said. "In our case, we're very comfortable with our process and how we think through things."

"I hope people realize today, though, that this is not something that I was aware of or Mr. DeWitt was aware of. In no way did it help inform any of our decisions."

Repeating his assertion from Tuesday in St. Louis, manager Mike Matheny didn't believe the investigation would affect performance. The Cardinals led the major leagues with a 43-21 record.

"There's going to be extra questions, there's going to be extra attention," Matheny said. "We've got a good group of guys who have been around and had potential distractions that they've stayed the course. And that's all we're asking them to do."

Mozeliak also separated the Cardinals' performance from the investigation.

"I do feel that this is something that's not great news for our organization," Mozeliak said. "But it shouldn't be something that tarnishes what these gentlemen do on the field."

The FBI has declined to confirm it is investigating the

Cardinals. But a person familiar with the investigation earlier told the AP that federal authorities are looking at whether members of the team were to blame for what Major League Baseball called a "breach" of the Astros database. There has been no indication of how many employees might be under investigation and Martin's comments were the first to suggest that any wrongdoing could be limited to the lower levels of the Cardinals organization.

The internal investigation is not finished, and Mozeliak added, "Not being an expert on this, I feel like progress is being made."

"These are serious allegations that don't reflect who we are as an organization," DeWitt said. "We are committed to getting to the bottom of this matter as soon as possible, and if anyone within our organization is determined to be involved in anything inappropriate, they will be held accountable."

DeWitt said the law firm is helping the team in providing requested information to the federal government. MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred said this week that subpoenas have been issued, though he did not disclose any details.

Athletics 16, Padres 2

In Oakland, Jesse Chavez struck out a career-high 11 in seven innings to win for only the second time in his last eight starts, Billy Butler had four hits including a three-run home run and Oakland beat San Diego.

Astros 8, Rockies 4

In Denver, Carlos Correa hit one of Houston's four home runs, Brett Oberholtzer pitched effectively into the seventh inning and the Astros continued

their power surge in a win over Colorado.

Diamondback 3, Angels 2

In Phoenix, Paul Goldschmidt and Welington Castillo each hit a solo home run, and Arizona held on to beat Los Angeles.

Blue Jays 8, Mets 0

In Toronto, Danny Valencia hit a three-run homer, Kevin Pillar had a solo shot and Toronto beat New York behind a solid start from Drew Hutchison.

US faces Colombia to open World Cup knockout round

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)—Upstart Colombia will be the next opponent for the U.S. national team at the Women's World Cup.

The second-ranked U.S. women, who have two World Cup titles, finished atop Group D with a 1-0 victory over Nigeria on Monday night.

Colombia, ranked No. 28 in the world, was the third-place finisher in Group F behind France and England. But Las Cafeteras already pulled off one of the tournament's biggest upsets with a 2-0 group-stage victory over No. 3 France.

In its group finale on Wednesday, Colombia fell 2-1 to England in Montreal. Sixteen teams in the expanded field of 24 advanced to the knockout round.

Colombia will face the United States on Monday night at



Commonwealth Stadium in Edmonton, Alberta.

"They got a tremendous result against France," coach Jill Ellis told reporters on Wednesday night in Edmonton. "But at this point, and the players know this, you've got to respect what they can do -

because they're going to bring it as much as we are."

Las Cafeteras will be without goalkeeper Sandra Sepulveda because of a pair of yellow cards, one against France and the second against England. Sepulveda was key to the team's victory over France with six saves.

Colombia is making its second World Cup appearance. The team, which finished in 14th in 2011 in Germany, had never won a match in the sport's premier tournament until the upset over France.

The United States has won

the World Cup twice, but not since 1999. The Americans have advanced to the knockout stage in all but one of the seven World Cups.

The United States has won both meetings between the teams.

An expanded field of 24 teams were in this World Cup, which is being played across six Canadian cities.

Thursday and Friday are rest days at the World Cup. The knockout round opens on Saturday with top-ranked Germany playing Sweden in Ottawa and China facing Cameroon in Edmonton. On Sunday, host Canada plays Switzerland in Vancouver, France faces South Korea in Montreal, and Brazil plays Australia in Moncton.

In addition to the Colombia-United States match on Monday, defending champion Japan plays the Netherlands in Vancouver and Norway plays England in Ottawa.

53 possible money-laundering cases in FIFA probe

BERN, Switzerland (AP)—Reeling from an American federal investigation of bribery in soccer, FIFA was put under more pressure Wednesday as the scale of a separate Swiss investigation of suspected money laundering was revealed.

Banks in Switzerland have flagged up 53 possible acts of money-laundering that could be linked to FIFA's 2018 and 2022 World Cup bidding contests, the country's attorney-general said.

Future World Cup hosts Russia and Qatar were not implicated by Swiss federal prosecutor Michael Lauber.

Still, the "huge and complex" case he outlined could potentially force FIFA to re-examine taking the world's most-watched sports event from either country if new evidence proves wrongdoing.

"I don't mind if this has some collateral (damage) somewhere else," Lauber said of his investigation, addressing the media for the first time since the dual Swiss and American criminal probes into FIFA were announced three weeks ago.

In a further sign of legal attacks on FIFA picking up pace, the ethics prosecutor of world soccer's ruling body later confirmed he expected an increased workload linked to the 2018 and 2022 case.

The ethics investigation department "has taken the necessary preparatory measures for



this and is prepared to increase its staff numbers at any time if needed," Cornel Borbely said in a rare public statement since succeeding Michael Garcia last December.

There seems little respite for FIFA three weeks after a stunning U.S. Department of Justice indictment alleged a racketeering conspiracy among top soccer officials, and two weeks after FIFA President Sepp Blatter

in public since, is a target of the U.S. federal agencies who are working with Swiss authorities.

Lauber said Wednesday he "does not exclude" interviewing

Blatter and FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke in the future.

They are not, however, currently under suspicion in a Swiss case prompted by FIFA's own criminal complaint against "persons unknown" last November.

The football body sent Lauber a 430-page investigation report submitted by Garcia, a

former U.S. Attorney who resigned from FIFA last December protesting that his work had been misrepresented.

Lauber's office opened a case for suspected "criminal mismanagement and money-laundering" in the bidding contests which involved 11 nations seeking votes from a 24-man FIFA executive committee.

Giving a first detailed ac-

count of his ongoing case, Lauber said the 53 "suspicious bank relations" were filed to comply with Switzerland's regulations against money laundering.

Some of the 53 transactions are among 104 incidents previously notified to Swiss and American federal authorities, he said.

The American case alleged that senior FIFA voters received \$10 million in bribes to support South Africa's successful bid for the 2010 World Cup. Valcke has acknowledged signing off the transfer from a FIFA account on behalf of South African officials, but said the payment had been approved by Julio Grondona, the former chairman of the finance committee who died last year.

Lauber would not be drawn on whether the South African case was also within the scope of his investigation.

"This is a dynamic process," Lauber said. "It could really go everywhere and that is why I don't want to tell you which direction I put my focus."

Lauber, who led units specializing in organized crime in Switzerland and money laun-

dering in Liechtenstein, said Wednesday that his task force is analyzing nine terabytes of data.

Lauber's team has also picked up one of Garcia's lines of inquiry into payments linked to a friendly match between Argentina and Brazil played in Doha two weeks before the FIFA vote. Both countries had long-serving delegates on FIFA's executive committee.

An executive with Swiss-based marketing agency Kentaro, who worked with the Brazil team in 2010, told The Associated Press he gave evidence to Swiss police on May 27.

Lauber said Kentaro was "a very interesting and very good company" which cooperated with the probe.

The Swiss case could dig deeper into corruption allegations than Garcia, who could not compel some FIFA voters to meet with him and did not have subpoena powers to gather key evidence.

"I have coercive measures and I am independent," Lauber said at a news conference called after his re-election by federal lawmakers for a four-year mandate.

"Well, our players continued to show great games. After playing for four successive days they maybe tired, but still they went out there and did their best," CNMI coach Jeff Race said when asked to assess the team's performance yesterday.

"Tomorrow (today) will be a big day for us, as they play in the semifinals. There will be more pressure because this is an important round. If they win in the semifinals, they are assured of slots to the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships. If not, they still have to play one more game in the battle for third place to make it to the POJC. There will be a lot of challenging games today and I hope they will pull in through," Race added.

Fourteen CNMI players are in the semifinals in the singles contest.

Asao and Cole Morril of TT; and Zalaka's Tim Salas and Jonathan "The Outlaw" Camacho of Down2Scrap (120lbs).

Cousins and Trench Tech stablemates Roman "Boom" Alvarez, who is fresh from a win in last week's PXC 48 in the Philippines, and "Shiska" Bob Alvarez will be featured in back-to-back K1 fights.

Roman Alvarez will take on Ethan "Typhoon" Reyes of UMA Gym in the 145-lb weight limit, while Rob Alvarez will face Jerome Cruz of GMT/UX at 135lbs.

Trench Tech promoter Cuki Alvarez, however, said the fight card remain tentative and are subject to changes.

Tickets are out and can be bought at Boarderline Skate Shop, Swirls Saipan, both IT&E locations, Naked Fish, and at the Trench Tech Gym.

Kids races to kick off Marianas Paddlefest

Youth races will open the Marianas Paddlefest on June 28 at the Hyatt Regency Saipan beachside.

The youth triangle event—Under-12, U14, and U16—will begin at 11:15am. Registration starts at 10am, while the pre-race briefing will be at 11am.

The adults Open 17-and-over participants will begin their events at 11:45am and the races will resume after the lunch break with the kids relay at 1pm to be followed by the adults at 2pm. Awarding ceremonies is at 3pm.

There will also be a men's and women's triangle courses as well as a mixed five-person relay for adults and kids.

The youth course is approxi-

mately 100 meters, while the 500m is for adults with both events including a run leg (about 40 to 50m) at the finish line at the beach.

The race will be at the lagoon area where spectators can see all the action on the beach.

Early registration is still ongoing at Hyatt-Saipan's Club Elan and at Windsurfing Saipan, located north Hyatt Regency-Saipan's beach side.

Early registration for youth (8-16 years old) is \$10 and \$20 for adults (Over-17) until June 24. Fee rates after June 24 will be \$15 for youth and \$30 for adult. Boards will be available for use through Windsurfing Saipan on race day for \$5.

Organizers of the event are also looking for additional sponsors to help them in their fund-raising efforts with proceeds going towards future events that aim to keep our youth active through paddlesports.

Bank of Hawaii, Hyatt Regency-Saipan, Windsurfing Saipan, JET Holdings, Triple J Enterprises, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, and KKMP Radio 92.1 are the event partners and sponsors.

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regard Hong Kong, which may pull off some surprises.

"As much as possible we don't want to underestimate the other squads. We respect the strengths of the other teams since they are also the champions of their country," said head coach Lawrence Camacho.

The squad has been practicing three to four times a week since the team was formed after the Senior Little League finals in early May. The group alternately uses the ballfields at Kan Pacific and Tan Ko for its training.

"The pressure is always there. But we always remind these boys to overcome it and keep in mind that they are playing at home, in front of their fami-

lies and supporters. This should serve as an inspiration," added Greg Camacho.

Lawrence Camacho said that aside from the four returning members of last year's Senior All-Star team, the other members were also chosen for the previous Majors and Junior all-star squads.

"We have a good mix here. They are getting there and we see them improve every practice. They only need to be mindful of every situation and be confident with their teammates," added Lawrence Camacho, who said that they will conclude practice on Monday to give the team the needed rest in time for the June 26 opening ceremony.

Meanwhile, Guam's High Blood Pressure's Santos (2-0) and TrenchTech's Manglona (2-1) will kick off the triple main event when they clash for the flyweight title. Their bout will be followed by the match between Ramirez of UMA Gym (1-1) and Gatmen (2-0) of Guam May Thai for the lightweight strap.

Three kickboxing matches will open up the event with UMA Gym's Jayvin "The Prodigy" Santos going up against Zalaka's Danny Jepen in a 130-pound bout and StrikeForce's Kier "The Radical Kidd" Agda taking on Guam Muay Thai's Wesly "Baby Bully" Ponio in a middleweight contest. GMT's Ryan "Snowflake" Perez will close out the kickboxing events against Frad-

ley Jepen of Zalaka.

In one of the nine undercard bouts, Josh "Oh My Gosh" Cruz's opponent in the 135-lb category has yet to be determined. The other undercard bouts will be between Matthew "Mighty Mouse" Sablan of Red Ants Academy and MCAMMA's Mike Muñoz (130lbs); MCMMA's Jadien "Bonbon" Camacho and A.J. "Smalls" Aldan of TrenchTech (115lbs); Independent fighter Daniel "Flowmotion" Floor and Mike "The Medic" Pacini of GMT (145lbs); RAA's Jones Langu and Independent Frankie Norita (145-150lbs); Ko "PakPak" Palacios of TT and Renz "The Intense" Benghit of Team Intense (155lbs); Lorenzo "Fruity Pebbles" Attao of Gracie Barra and Lucas "The Irish Zombie" Nutting of TT (135lbs); Zalaka's Derick

TEAM

From Page 36

Yamaduke Kainoa, Franklin Jay Lizama, Henry Jesus Lizama, Aurel Joe Mendiola, Brandon Win Pua, Lorenzo Lee Sebaklim, Robbin Virgil Secharmidal, and Roke K. Tenorio are the other members of the squad.

"We have the homefield advantage as well as the home-town fans. This will be a great tournament," added Camacho, whose squad will also challenge Hong Kong and the Philippines in a double-round robin format.

The coaching staff said that Guam and the Philippines would be their toughest opponents but they don't want to dis-

CNMI can draw inspiration from Guam

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI can draw inspiration from Guam's wins in the World Cup qualifying as the Commonwealth prepares for three Asian Football Confederation events in September this year.

Guam posted a pair of victories in the 2018 FIFA World Cup qualification (Asia), beating Turkmenistan last week, 1-0 (own goal), and India, 2-1, last Tuesday at the GFA National Training Center in Harmon.

"Congratulations to Guam Football Association and its president Richard Lai," said Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan, who was in Guam to watch the host stun India behind the goals from midfielder Brandon McDonald and defender Travis Nicklaw.

The twin wins got the attention of the world as CNN featured a story about Guam's recent success, highlighting how a small island in the Pacific beat India and Turkmenistan to become the unlikely leader in Group D. Guam, which suffered lopsided losses to Iran, 0-19 and Tajikistan, 0-16, in 2000 during its first World Cup qualifying stint, earned 6 points from the first two games in this year's qualifier to lead Oman (3),



GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
Guam's Travis Nicklaw attempts a shot against India's Arnab Kumar Mondal during a 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia and AFC Asian Cup UAE 2019 Joint Qualification Round 2 match at the Guam Football Association National Training Center in Harmon last Tuesday.

being 30 years behind, we continue to make progress with our youth development program and I want to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to GFA for their continuing support to NMIFA," Tan said.

Meanwhile, Guam will resume its 2018 FIFA World Cup qualification bid on Sept. 8 when it takes on Oman and will close out against Iran on Nov. 17. The group winners and best four runners-up (all groups combined) will advance to the third round of the FIFA World Cup qualification and qualify for the 2019 AFC Asian Cup finals. In the third round, the Top 2 teams (two groups) will earn slots to the 2018 FIFA World Cup, which Russia will host. The two third placers in the third round will go to the fourth round and the winner of the two games will make it to the inter-confederation playoffs to fight for the remaining FIFA World Cup berths.

Iran (1), Turkmenistan (1), and India (0). Guam is the lowest-ranked (FIFA rankings) team in Group D at No. 174, while Iran tops the field at No. 41, and Oman, India, and Turkmenistan are ranked No. 101, 132, and 173, respectively.

"NMIFA and the CNMI teams can draw a lot of inspiration

from Guam and its recent success in the ongoing World Cup qualifier. Guam clearly shows that despite being a small island, it can still be competitive if it puts in a lot of hard work consistently," Tan said.

Tan and NMIFA are sending

teams to the AFC U14 Regional Festival of Football 2015 (East Region), AFC U-19 Championship Bahrain 2016, and AFC U14 Regional Festival of Football 2015 (East Region)

in September with the Commonwealth bets out to battle powerhouse squads in the

region. Tan is hoping Guam's triumphs will inspire and boost the confidence of the CNMI teams, as they go all out to produce the best possible results for the Commonwealth.

"Guam Football Association is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, while NMIFA is at its 10th anniversary. Despite



Delta One tickets at stake at Tournament of Champions



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tournament of Champions chair Ben Babauta, second from right, receives the ceremonial Delta One ticket from Delta Air Lines sales and marketing department's Chris Concepcion, fourth left, during a donation turnover ceremony yesterday at the Saipan International Airport. Delta Air Lines employees and TOC's Jeff Taylor, right, witnessed the ceremony.

Organizers of the 2015 Tournament of Champions received Delta Air Lines' donation of two Delta One (formerly called BusinessElite) tickets to the United States/Canada.

sales and marketing department's Chris Concepcion. "We are happy to support the event and look forward to another successful tournament."

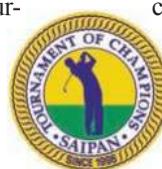
"We would like to thank Delta Air Lines for its generous contribution and its commitment to the TOC year after year," said TOC tournament director Ben Babauta. "The hole-in-one prize is sure to entice players to join the tournament."

Besides the Delta One tickets, other hole-in-one prizes in the two-day tournament are three brand new cars, cash, and one-year free golf from LaoLao.

Players could also win cash and other prizes in the six flights and two more categories. The first placers in the Champion-

ship, A, B, C, Senior, and Super Senior flights will get \$500, while \$400, \$300, \$100 and T Galleria gift certificate, and electronic devices will go to the second to fifth finishers. In the Ladies Low Gross, the champion will take home \$500 and the runner-up and third placer will pocket \$400 and \$300, respectively. In the Ladies Low Net, the Top 3 finishers will get trophies.

Registration for next month's tournament is ongoing and sign-up fee is \$200. A shotgun start is set at 7am, while show time is at 6am for both days. Entry forms are available at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, T Galleria, and online at www.tocsaipan.com. For more information, contact Arthur Miron at 236-2533 or Marida Pensader at 236-2530. (Saipan Tribune)



Tsunami Saipan to host summer course



Slots for the program are limited and will be on a first come, first serve basis. Once registered, each swimmer will



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tsunami Saipan swimmers will help conduct Summer Fitness Course 2015 beginning next month at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Plumeria Swim signup deadline today



Swimmers and snorkelers are reminded to register by today for the Marianas

Visitors Authority's 1st Annual Plumeria Swim that will be held at Pau Pau Beach this Saturday.

"Logistically, we want to ensure everything is in order for all participants on Saturday morning, so we will be registering only through Friday," explained MVA Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas.

So far, 44 international swimmers have registered to join the event, which has four race cate-

gories and welcomes swimmers with or without flippers. The cost is \$25 for CNMI residents with valid I.D. for the 1.5km flipper race, or \$20 for the 1.5km swim, 500m swim, or for each member of the 2K relay team (up to four members per team). Mandatory orientation will be held from 4:30 to 5:30pm today at the Paseo de Marianas. Participants must be in good health with snorkeling or diving experience.

The race will begin at 6am, followed by an island-style breakfast and awards ceremony at the beach.

The event is jointly organized

by the MVA and the Community Sports Center Foundation of Japan and is supported by Let's Go! Tour, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, World Resort Saipan, McDonald's Saipan, Detry Pumping Service, Saipan Advertising, Pacific Development Inc., Department of Public Safety, Boating Safety/EMS, Emma Perez, Peter Perez, Mobby's, Tusa Reef Tourer by Tabata, Gull, Super VAAM, Bism, SAS, Marine Diving, and Northern Marianas Diving Operators Association.

For more information or an application, visit the MVA Events Calendar at www.mymarianas.com or call Ed Diaz at 664-3210. (MVA)



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return to Bay
Area as NBA
champions**
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can draw
inspiration
from Guam**
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CNMI jr. players stand out in doubles



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's impressive run in the ITF North Pacific Regional Championships 2015 continued, as doubles events in the annual competition kicked off yesterday in Guam.



The Commonwealth's girls U12, U14, and U16 teams went unbeaten, while the boys U14 and U12 also boosted their chances for the doubles titles in their respective divisions.

In the girls U14, Tania Tan teamed up with Malika Miyawaki and the top-ranked pair eased past their two opponents at the City Courts in Agana. The CNMI duo first shut down the Federated State of Micronesia's Isabel Garcia and Tatiana Panuelo, 6-0, 6-0, before sweeping Guam's Alyssa Merletti and Jocelyn Tenai, 6-2, 6-0.

The other CNMI team in the girls U14 doubles—Mimi Sakano and Asia Raulersom—played in the first game in the division and also took only two sets to beat Merletti and Tenai, 6-1, 6-3.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Robbie Schorr, seen here going for a baseline return in a local tournament this year at the Pacific Islands Club, teamed up with Ken Song in the boys U14 doubles event in the ITF North Pacific Regional Championships 2015.

the sweep with a dominating 6-0 victory. In the girls U12 doubles, the CNMI also went 4-0 with the pairs of Conatsu and Coume Kaga and Ericka Tuttle and Maria Gregoire recording similar 2-0 records in the round-robin contest. The Kaga siblings waltzed past FSM's Paris Panuelo and Anne Skilling, 6-0, 6-0, while Gregoire and Tuttle also dominated the same FSM pair, 6-1, 6-0. Conatsu and Coume earned their second win after a 6-0, 6-1 triumph over Guam's Kaia Malakooti and FSM's

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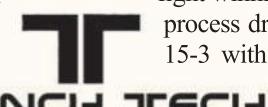
'Crank' to fight in ROP triple main event

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Frank "The Crank" Camacho will return to Saipan to headline a triple main event in the Rites of Passage 18: Warpath on July 3, Friday, at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

Camacho will be facing Japanese bet Yasuaki Miura (7-6) of Zendokai Nagano in a non-title main event fight after the respective bouts of Ernie Santos and Jordan "The Machine" Manglona for the flyweight belt, and Jose "Young Blood" Ramirez and Eric "Gatty" Gatmen for the lightweight strap.

The 26-year-old Camacho is aiming to bounce back from a first-round loss to another Japanese fighter and



shooto champion Yusuke Kasuya (9-1-2, 1 knockout). Kasuya beat Camacho by rear-naked choke submission in Pacific Xtreme Combat 47 last March 13 in Guam.

Camacho's defeat at the hands of Kasuya ended the former's four-fight winning streak and in the process dropped his record to 15-3 with 11 of his wins by way of KOs.

Miura is also coming off a loss, his third straight, after falling to New Zealand's Luke "The Jedi" Jumeau in the Pacific Rim Organized Fighting 10 last May 9 at the Taipei Gymnasium in Chinese-Taipei.

Camacho and Miura will be fighting in the 170-pound weight limit or welterweight.

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JON PEREZ

Team officials hope World Series vets deliver

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

CNMI Senior All-Stars officials are pinning their hopes on the four returning players who went to last year's Senior League Baseball World



Series at the Shawn T. Mansfield Stadium in Bangor, Maine.

The CNMI All-Stars, the defending Asia-Pacific champions, will begin their quest to return to the World Series when they open up next week's regional tournament against Guam on Saturday,



June 27, at the Francisco M. Palacios ballfield.

Craig Michael Aguon, Nathan Paul Camacho, Franko T. Nakamura, and Jobe Anton Reyes are the four returning players and team manager Greg Camacho, along with head coach Lawrence Camacho and assistant John Manibusan are hoping that their World Series experience would rub off to other members of the squad.

"I hope they do the same things that they've done in last year's regionals and they bring the experience and things they have learned from the tournament in the Philippines. We have a good chance of defending the title with the composition of the team," said manager Greg Camacho.

John Richard Paul Atalig Jr., Anthony Joseph Agulto, Ethan Franklin Babauta, Joaquin Jose Chong, Kekuni

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Nate Camacho is among the four returning members of last year's CNMI All-Star team that went all the way to the Senior League World Series in Bangor, Maine.

Frank "The Crank" Camacho, standing, returns to Saipan as he headlines Rites of Passage 18: Warpath and goes up against Japan's Yasuaki Miura in a non-title fight on July 3 at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.